india post
THROUGH AGES

A Saga Of Communications

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SHER SHAH SURI 16TH CENTURY
भारत INDIA
इनपेक्स-77
INPEX-77
भारत
INDIA
EARLY POSTMAN
1977
25

Dr. H. NOOR AHMED
M. A., D.M.A., Ph. D.

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पुस्तकालय
गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय
विषय संख्या आगत नं० 117767
लेखक Ahmad, H.Noor
शीर्षक India Post through ages

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गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय
कृपया पुस्तक के ऊपर कोई निशान आदि
न लगायें।

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गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार

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THROUGH AGES

A Saga Of Communications

पुस्तकालय
पुस्तकालय
गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय

117767

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Cover page

Insert

Left side top	Sher Shah Suri (1472-1545 AD), Medieval Ruler known as Founder of India Post.
Left side top middle	'Raj Hans' (Swan), a mythical carrier of messages of love.
Left side bottom	Early Postman.
Right side	Escort in the Khyber Pass, North West Frontier, during the Afghan Wars, 1879 AD.

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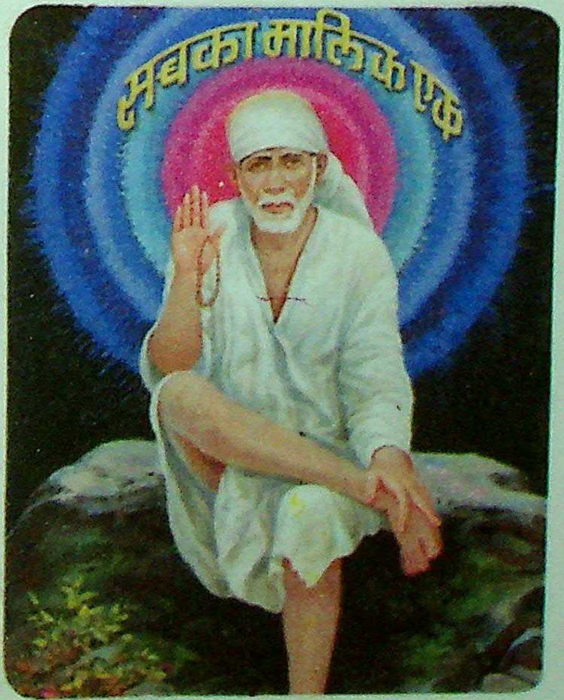
DEDICATION

" Whoso offers to me, with love or devotion, a leaf, a flower, a fruit or water, that offering of love of the pure and self-controlledman is willingly and readily accepted by me."

-Lord Shri Krishna
in *Bhagawadgeeta*, IX-26.

Shirdi the abode of *Hazrat* **Sai Baba** (*Rahmatullahu ' alaihi*) comes in the limits of Pandharpur which was the southern-most centre of Dwarka and, therefore, Shirdi was Dwarka (the city of Lord Krishna) itself. (Mr. B.V. Deo, Saileela Vol.14, Nos 1-2-3.)

The place where doors are open for all people of the four (Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya and Shudra) classes for accomplishing the four Purusharthas (cherishable things by the mankind) viz., Dharma (the Absolute faith in the Almighty), Artha (Wealth) Kama (desire) and Moksha (Salvation) is called Dwarka, by the wise philosophers. Baba' s Masjid in Shirdi is, therefore, very appropriately styled Dwarka.



To Dwarkadhish (the Lord of Dwarka)
Hazrat Sai Baba (Rahmatullahu ' alaihi)
seeking his favourite blessings "Allah Malik"
This work with myself

ॐ नमो भगवते वासुदेवाय

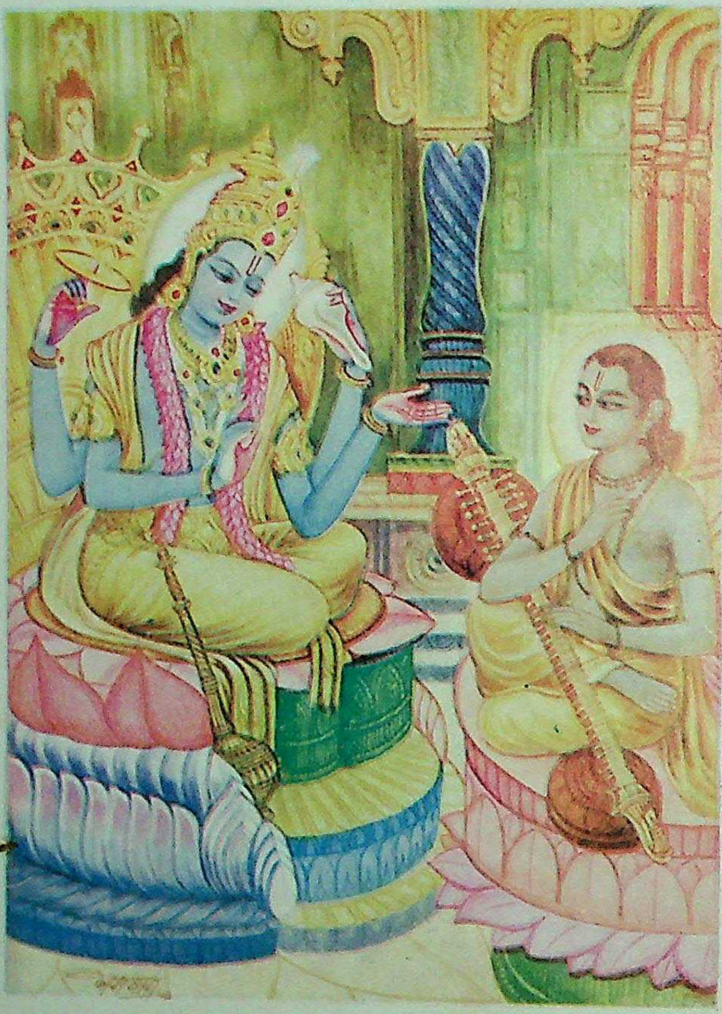
'Om, Namo Bhagavate Vasudevaya'

'Om' , Bhagavata says, is the bow for self realisation, the pure Self is the Shaft and the Supreme Self is the mark aimed at. By bowing, in respectful salutations, to Him, the Alone Real and the Cosmic Self who pervades, sustains and enlivens whatever exists in the world both animate and inanimate can one attain or become the consciousness itself.

- Skanda VIII, Chapter 1, **Srimad Bhagavatam.**

- Thus initiated Maharshi Narada the Dvadasakshari Mantra with twelve syllables, corresponding to the twelve rasis or signs of Zodiac and glorifying the Sustainer of the Universe to Bhakt Dhruva who is believed to have later been blessed with Dhruv Loka (the Pole Star) as his abode and became the Luminiary among devotees shining eternally in all glory.

- Skanda IV, Chapter 8 and Skanda VII, Chapter 15, **Srimad Bhagavatam.**

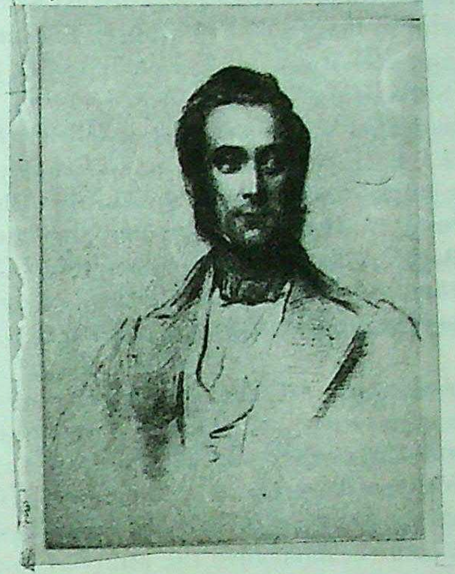


Devarshi (Divine Sage) Narada receiving instructions from Bhagvan (Lord) Sri Hari (Creator and Sustainer of the Universe).

— Adhyaya 201, **Agni** (Courtesy - `Kalyan')

Mythologically, Maharshi Ṇarada, believed to have been created even before the creation of mankind, is accredited to have conveyed messages among . crores of Devas. Devas are believed to be of 8 types viz., (1) Gods (2) Manes (Pithris) (3) Demons (4) Gandharvas and Apsaras (5) Yakshas and Rakshasas (6) Siddhas, Charanas and Vidyadharas (7) Bhutas (Ghosts), Pretas (spirits), Pisachas (Fiends) (8) Kinnaras and Kimpurushas.

- Skanda III Chapter 10. **Srimad Bhagavatam .**



"It makes the post office what under any other system it never can be the unrestricted means of diffusing knowledge, extending commerce, and promoting in every way the social and intellectual improvement of the people."

Lord Dalhousie,
Father of India Post
and
Governor General of India,
(in his Minute dated December 30, 1851 A.D.)

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I am grateful to my supervisor Dr. Surindra Nath Sinha, M.A., D.Phil., (Allahabad), F.R.A.S. (London) Professor and Head, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi for his effective guidance and encouragement I received in pursuance of my studies in a proper perspective. I shall always cherish the days when I could discuss with him various dimensions of my present study. I am much grateful to those who had all been responsible in getting my study leave sanctioned for peacefully pursuing this study and especially to Ms. Shaukat Ara Tirmizi, Director (Postal Accounts I), Shri A.P. Shrivastav, Section Officer (Admn.), Shri S.V. Subrahmanyam and Shri V.S.V. Pillai of Admn. Section, Shri M.S.Rawat, Section Officer (P.E.), Shri T.J.Banarjee, A.D.G. (Est.). I am also grateful to Sri J.J. Paul, A.D. (W.S.), Shri G. Venkateswarulu, P.A. and Shri Mangoo Ram of Philately Section of the Postal Services Directorate, Shri Dharam Pal Tyagi, P.A. and Mr. Shafeequddin A.D. (Trg.) of Postal Staff College India and Shri Niranjan Sharma Stamp Vendor, Ghaziabad and Shri S.N. Bajpe, Chairman, Staff Selection Commission for the help and encouragement received from them. I wish to thank the Indian Council of Historical Research for the award of contingent grant to meet partial expenditure connected with my present study.

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DR. GALE J. RAYMOND, F.R.G.S.
Research Director/Geographer
r.v. "SASIFANI"

15 Nov. 1995

MESSAGE

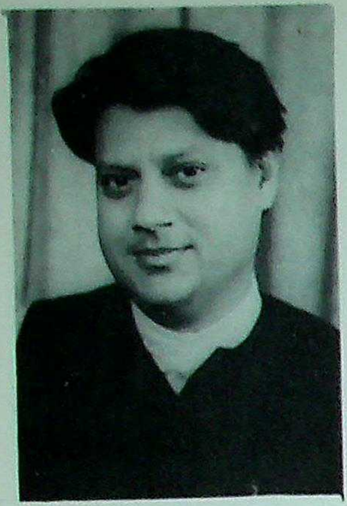
In attaining the high degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY, the aspiring Graduate Student has to inspire in himself a strong sense of self-discipline, an ability to locate and collate an enormous amount of factual,verifiable data,winnow out the chaff,and apply intelligently an acute level of analytical capability to a final conclusion, yet lucid enough to maintain the interest of its readership. This Dr. H.Noor Ahmed has done most admirably,in a most difficult field,and has now enhanced and expounded it as a definitive historical study of major worth," INDIA POST THROUGH AGES: A SAGA OF COMMUNICATIONS".

For its extent and scope,it is eminantly readable, Chapter by Chapter. From the historical aspect,our own major field,particularly in Civil and Military Postal History,nothing has been noted by us as a single element neglected. We are particularly impressed by the Chapter on Military Postal History, which most nations minimize in similar works. A Nation which is sensitive and understanding to the morale and human emotional support of its Officers and Soldiers under military operations,in war and peace, is to be respected and admired. --Such a seriously important historical work should be printed on a scale where it can be be made available at a reasonable price to the world's archives,museums,historical institutes,philatelists,and postal historians,who will assuredly welcome it. In fact,it contains a Guideline toward many nations for advanced improvements and innovative solutions to the increasing complexities of the Mail Services, both nationally and internationally,without excessively increasing over-all costs.

In essence, we extend sincere CONGRATULATIONS on the accomplishment of this major study by Dr.H.NOOR AHMED. It reflects high Honor both to himself and we hope an appreciative rapidly progressive Nation, INDIA.

Respectfully,

(GALE J. RAYMOND, Ph.D.,Sc.D.)



MADHAVRAO SCINDIA

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मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्री
भारत
नई दिल्ली-110001
MINISTER OF
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
INDIA
NEW DELHI-110001

October 20, 1995.

MESSAGE

I am glad that an authentic account of the development of the postal service in the country has been made into a research thesis. The author, Dr. H. Noor Ahmed, with his intimate knowledge of the subject, is eminently suitable for the task which is much-needed. The development of postal services throughout the length and breadth of this vast country is an enchanting account which will be useful not only to experts but also to general readers.

(Madhavrao Scindia)

DR (SMT) NAJMA HEPTULLA
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
RAJYA SABHA
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
NEW DELHI

MESSAGE

It would have been an interesting study to trace the development of Indian Post. The need for a communication network between distant places, was felt right from the inception in the civilized societies. Human society has been constantly improvising the means to meet their need. It was this improvisation over the ages which has shaped the structure of the present day postal network. In India, the establishment of an organised postal network is a comparatively recent phenomenon. With ever increasing demand for larger and more frequent communication network after the Independence, the Postal Department had to gear up all its energies to match the demands. Our development largely depends upon an efficient communication network. Besides the department has a social obligation. It caters to 600,000 villages through 150,000 post offices at affordable rates.

Indeed, it would have been a fascinating experience to know more about this department. It has remained obscure from the public attention. Through such studies people would know and appreciate the development and potential of the postal system. This is the age of communication. Modern systems are being adopted to facilitate speedy and frequent exchange of ideas. In the coming years, we would witness the use of more sophisticated information technology. Judging by present trend, there will be a greater use of electronics.

I wish more researches are done on various aspects of postal system. I am sure there is a vast scope for it. This work is a good beginning. Dr. Ahmad has very assiduously gone through the primary and secondary sources and has reached to objective conclusions.

I congratulate the author for completing this study.

Najma Heptulla
(NAJMA HEPTULLA)

New Delhi

9.8.1995

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श. च. महालिक
S. C. MAHALIK
सचिव
Secretary to the Govt. of India &
Director General, Post

MESSAGE

Dr. H. Noor Ahmed's Doctoral Thesis entitled 'India Post Through Ages' is a useful reference book in an area where information is highly scattered, incomplete and confined to cloistered office files or largely out-of-print government publications. Though India had a well developed network of post even before the Railways and Telephones were introduced, the rich history of the Post during the last 200 years has not been documented in a manner it deserves. The development of India Post during the last 200 years has been generally incremental and evolutionary where rules and procedures were gradually evolved, tested and refined with a view to rendering economical and efficient postal service in the highly diverse environment of the sub-continent. However, due to radical changes in the public expectations and technology during the last two decades, the postal system which has evolved over the years requires basic technological upgradation and organisational changes. India Post has taken up this task of modernising the postal services in a time-bound manner, but the rich history of the Post needs to be documented and preserved as an example of an organisation which has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to provide cheap and efficient service under changing conditions despite all challenges. Dr. Noor Ahmed's book is a useful documentation in this regard and I hope that this publication will motivate others to take up various aspects of India Post's history for research and documentation.

(S.C. Mahalik)

Mother Land

Hubbul Watan Minal Iman
Love of Native Land is part of Faith (in Divine)

—Hadith
(Traditions : the words of the Holy Prophet (S.A.)
and his actions and what he permitted)

My Telugu Land

Maa Telugu Talliki Malle Poo Danda
Mamuganna Talliki Mangalaratulu

Our Mother Telugu Land, we present Garland of Jasmines to Thee
Mother thou have given birth to us, we lit auspicious lamps of sacrifices in thy way

—Sri Sankarambadi Sundarachari

VANDE MATARAM

HAIL TO THE MOTHER

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's poem Bande Mataram (Hail to the Mother) first appeared in his novel Anandamath (The Abbey of Bliss) 1882 AD and soon became the Marseillaise of the nationalist movement throughout India.

Mother, I bow to thee!
Rich with thy hurrying streams,
Bright with thy orchard gleams,
Cool with thy winds of delight,
Dark fields waving, Mother of might,
Mother free.
Glory of moonlight dreams
Over thy branches and lordly streams,
Clad in thy blossoming trees,
Mother, giver of ease,
Laughing low and sweet!
Mother, I kiss they feet,
Speaker sweet and low!
Mother, to thee I bow.
Who hath said thou art weak in thy land,
When the swords flash out in twice seventy million hands
And seventy million voices roar[1]
Thy dreadful name from shore to shore?
With many strengths who are mighty and stored,
To thee I call, Mother and Lord!
Thou who savest, arise and save!
To her I cry who ever her foemen drave
Back from plain and sea
And shook herself free.
Thou art wisdom, thou art law,
Thou our heart, our soul, our breath,
Thou the love divine, the awe
In our hearts that conquers death.
Thine the beauty, thine the charm.
Every image made divine
In our temples is but thine.
Thou art Durga, [2] **Lady and Queen,**
With her hands that strike and her swords of sheen,
Thou are Lakshmi[3] **lotus-throned,**
And the Muse a hundred-toned.
Pure and Perfect without peer,
Mother, lend thine ear.
Rich with thy hurring streams,
Bright with thy orchard gleams,
Dark of hue, O candid-fair
In thy soul, with jewelled hair
And thy glorious smile divine
Loveliest of all earthiy lands,
Showering wealth from well-stored hands!
Mother, mother mine!
Mother sweet, I bow to thee
Mother great and free!

— Bankim Chandra Chatterjee (1833-94AD)
translated by A. Ghose

---

[1] When used as a national song, this figure is changed to 900 million.
[2] The Goddess Mother, much worshipped in Bengal.
[3] The Goddess of Wealth

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ABBREVIATIONS

AD = anno Domini, in the year of Lord.
APPU = Asian Pacific Postal Union.
APS = Army Postal Service
ARPO = Annual Reports of the Post Office Department (nomenclature varies from time to time).
BC = Before Christ.
Br. POs in PG = British Post Offices in Persian Gulf
D.G. = Director General
FIAP = Inter-Asia Philatelic Federation
FIP = Federation Internationale de Philatelie
FPO = Field Post Office
GPO = General Post Office
IRM = Inspector Railway Mail Service
MMS = Mail Motor Service
N.W.F.P. = North Western Frontier Provinces
PMG = Postmaster General
P.& O. = Peninsular and Oriental Navigation Company
Pro. of the S.C., = Proceedings of the Sub Committee. 1887. Public Service Commission, Postal Department, 1887 AD.
RMS = Railway Mail Service
SPOs = Superintendent of Post Offices
SRM = Superintendent Railway Mail Service
TD = Town Delivery
TPO = Travelling Post Office
UPU = Universal Postal Union

A Useful Conversion Table

One Crore = Ten Millions
One Lakh = A Hundred Thousands

Currency in use

Price to 1957 AD

12 Pies = 1 Anna
16 Annas = 1 Rupee

Since 1957 AD

100 Naye Paise/Paise = 1 Rupee

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

Foreword

There are many aspects of modern day life which are so much part of our daily activities that we take them for granted. The Post is one of them. We are likely to think of the Post or the postal services only when something is amiss - the letter we expect does not arrive or the package we send is delayed. As Director General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union, a United Nations Specialised Agency, I am privileged to be closely associated with the improvement and more efficient functioning of postal services of its 189 member countries and thus help in the development of communications between the peoples of the world.

The modern day Post is a far cry from its ancestor when oral or written messages on royal affairs were transmitted through relays of men on foot or on horseback. It is nevertheless a richly rewarding and highly educative experience to go back into time to see how postal services were organised in a particular country. Dr. Noor Ahmed has done just that. He has traced the history of India Post for a hundred years from 1854 to 1954. Apparently, Dr. Ahmed has done meticulous and painstaking research and his work makes for interesting and informative reading. I am quite sure that "INDIA POST THROUGH AGES" would interest scholars and researchers, casual readers philatelists and the Indian Postal Service personnel alike. I wish him all success.

Bern, 30 August 1995

Thomas. E. Leavey, M.A. Ph.D.
Director General

PREFACE

In view of fast developing means of communications, the distances have, now, no relevance in matter of transmitting messages from one part of the world to another. But even in the present context, the nature of facilities available for such communications are distinctly different from the developed and the developing nations. However, the human instinct to communicate has ever been a compelling force to develop faster means of communication.

In the context of India, the system of communications, though has passed through many stages of development, could be traced back to the ancient times. Many scholars have earlier attempted to study some of the aspects of Postal System in India. Some of the studies which deserve mention are Dr. Usha Masson, 'Means of Transport and Communications, 1650-1750,' Dr. A.K.M. Farooque, 'Roads and Communications in Mughal India,' Dr. Basant Lal Grovar, 'Development of the Postal System under the East India Company, 1757-1858,' Dr. M.A. Nayeem, 'History of Postal Administration in Hyderabad, 1296-1950'. Dr. Ramesh Chandra Sinha, 'Trade Union Movement and Collective Bargaining in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' besides some other works namely, Geoffrey Clarke, 'The Post Office in India and its story (1921)', I.G.H. Hamilton, 'Outline of Postal History and Practice (1920)', Mulk Raj Anand, 'The Story of Indian Post Office (1954)', Anand Gopal Sen, 'The Post Office of India or a historical review of its rise, progress etc. (1875), M.L. Mazumdar, 'The Zamindari Dawk' and 'The Imperial Post Offices of British India (1837-1914)' and Brig.D.S. Virk, 'Indian Postal History (1873-1923)'. But these studies have touched some selected aspects of the system and, therefore, their focus has naturally been limited to their point of study.

Perhaps the Indian Postal System is one of those areas which has so far not drawn the attention of the scholars in a manner that its significance deserves. The development of Indian Postal System has an interesting history. However, the lack of any attempt to present a comprehensive picture in an authentic manner of this important branch of communication has de-voiced the scholars to appreciate the history and function of this important system. The development of any society is inherently linked with the development of means of communications. Therefore, the history of Indian Postal System is the history of the development of Indian Society in its various aspects.

Keeping in view the significance of the Indian Postal System and the absence of any authentic study on the subject, I decided to undertake research on this important aspect of communications. Being in the service of Postal Department, my interest and inquisitiveness to know the history of the development of the Indian Postal System is in a way explanation for my selecting the present topic of research. I have every reason to hope that the present study of the Postal system relating to one of the important developing nations of the world would be helpful in appreciating the kind of problems that the system witnessed from its inception to what could be called its period of fulfillment.

The present work is an improved version of my doctoral thesis. Having studied the growth and development of the Department, I was in a despair to notice the slumber in its march in the recent past. But now with an admiration and joy that I am to conclude my work with the account of the present endeavours of the Department to improve its services and image under the steward leadership of Sri. S.C.Mahalik, the present Director General, Department of Posts, India assisted by the galaxy of experienced Senior Postal Officers. The recent reforms have percolated down to mail handling as well. To bring a semblance of order to the sorting process different categories such as the "Metro-channel" (between Delhi and metropolitan cities), "Rajdhani Channel" (quicker service between Delhi and state capitals), "Business channel" (special services for bulk despatches) and "Registration channel" (for ensuring faster flow of registered mail between different mail offices) have been established. This has enabled prioritizing in handling of the important mail and mails originating for and from metro cities and state capitals. Further the introduction of host of new services such as the Hybrid Mail Service and the Satellite Money Order have facilitated combining the services of a postman with computers and satellite to deliver mail and money orders on the same or the next day. The need for this farsighted policy has been perceived by the present Director General, Department of Posts India and implemented with determination and speed.

In his message to the Fifth Federal Congress of National Postal Organisation held in Bombay in April 1995, Shri S.C. Mahalik, the present Director General, Department of Post India has expressed that the India Post is at the cross roads. Yes, Certainly. Being a historian himself, he has been able to perceive and to give a wise turn from its traditional track.

The endeavours of Sir, A.U. Fanshawe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., the then Director General became fruitful in bringing into light the Indian Post Office Act of 1898 which took care of the British Raj (Empire) and the needs of this great nation for a century. Now again at the turn of the 20th century, I am amazed to find Sir A.V. Fanshawe the Pole Star of Indian postal horizon re-appearing on Indian scene in the shape of Shri S.C. Mahalik and trying to modernise the old machinery and to see India Post flying with renewed energy like a red-bird with double vigour (its Corporate Logo) in order to recapture its lost place in the changed environment.

In his valedictory address on January 20th, 1995 A.D. to the participants of SAARC countries on completion of the Extended Training Programme on Business Management conducted in Postal Staff College India by the Asian Pacific Postal Training Centre, Bangkok, Sri S.C. Mahilik, Director General, Department of Post India beautifully summed up the Financial policy of the Department by saying that he was wondering for the last 35 years in his service to find out what actually is the Financial policy of the Department. Whether it is commercial or public utility service or revenue earning to meet its own expenses. Having been a good debater all along since his school days, he concluded by saying that to his surprise he has now found it to be all these as it is charging the corporate sector with commercial rates, providing poor man's service like post cards etc., on subsidised rates and has been a revenue earning organisation to meet its own expenses in running the other services for the common man.

With the passage of time the India Post has lost track while fixing the postage rates . The rise in General Price Index has not been kept in view while revising the tariff. The letters, inland letter cards and postcards are being sold at 20%, 48% and 12.2% of their initial rate fixed on introduction of these services and the ratio maintained for several years thereafter. These are the major revenue earning sources and unless the rates are brought on par with the rise in General Price Index, the service will continue to suffer huge and irrepairable losses to India Post.

With the spread of education and changes in socio-economic life of the nation, all that public needs is a guaranteed, efficient and prompt service both in the interiors and urban centres. Especially in rural sector availability of the Post Office in the vicinity is more desired than the subsidised rates of these valuable three services viz., the letter, inland letter card and post cards. These are the only resort of a common man in rural India though the other modes of communications have developed rapidly.

As a collective endeavour is now being made to improve our services, I am not being able to restrain myself humbly put forth the following suggestions :

(a) "History repeats". It is true in the postal arena also. A situation akin to that of early 1850s AD when the Post Office Act of 1854 AD was promulgated to eliminate private agencies which dealt with "clubbed packets" has now arisen. By loosing its grip on its earnings in the urban services, the India Post will not be in a position to finance itself to effectively serve the rural populace. Secondly continuance of the private courier system is not in the better national interests since the mail carried by them is not subject to or available for any kind of censorship. When the main spirit behind the introduction of Post Office Act of 1854 AD was aimed at having effective control of their dominions by the allies, introduction of a fresh Act to bring complete elimination of the private courier agencies is more desirable now and is also in better national interests.

(b) The re-introduction and popularising of Express Delivery of unregistered letters, inland letter cards and cards in vogue for 40 years i.e., from 1930 AD to 1974 AD certainly requires re-consideration as an auxiliary to the Speed Post to reach the rural and remote places now decently stand segregated into PIN Code Zones.

(c) Re-introduction of Sorting Sections : As a result of conversion of Sorting Sections into Transit Sections only the closed mail bags are being conveyed in trains instead of the lively sorting of mails in transit. The mail is thus being over-carried and delayed in transmission. Re-introduction of Sorting Sections will eliminate delays and facilitate speedy movement of mails in this land of vast distances.

(d) The postal development has almost kept pace with educational development in the country. It had been one post office for 1000 literate people across about a century. In the recent past this development has lagged behind and average literate population per post office is 2379 as on March 31st, 1993 A.D. In urban areas there is one post office per 13,337 populace on an average and in rural areas 450 thousand villages are still without a post office located in them. While in urban areas the various segments of the society resort to increased postal activities, in the rural areas the Post is the most sought for and useful and the only means of communicating and resort of a common man. Hence, the thrust better be once again towards expansion of network of post offices as the Post War Development Plan formulated after the Second Great War and the initial Five Year Plans had shown. The following measures will help improve the postal services both in urban and rural areas :

   (i) In rural areas : Every village with a government school better be equipped with a post office. The utilisation of services of the teachers on payment of some nominal amount and extension of the existing mail lines will help solve this problem.

   (ii) In urban areas : Openinig of Extra Departmental Post Offices incharge of outsiders to man the post offices for specific hours as per the needs of the localities is one better answer. The increased utilisation of services of the Extra Departmental Agents in urban areas will also help solve the housing problem of the post office in urban areas.

(e) Though since the second decade of the twentieth century some building activity in clearly visible and some attractive buildings have come up in important cities, the general policy of the Department had been to hire building in preference to construction. India Post has inherited some good postal buildings from the areas governed by the Princely States also. The Department has taken some effective steps during the last decade followed by the initiatives of Sri K.R. Murthy, the then Director General. Vigorous pursuance of the Building policy is not feasible in view of the deteriorating financial position. But unless this is done Indan Post may loose ground which is likely to cost it dear in the long run.

(f) It is high time that the Postal Services Board in India be empowered to fix its postal tariff from time to time keeping in view the rise in General Price Index and the cost of services. The tariff so fixed should be binding on the Parliament as it is now in the case of Railway tariff. Unless this is done, India Post already crippled and sinking with heavy burden of losses will, it is apprehended, be neither be able to reach the more than 450 thousand remote and distant villages yet without a post office stationed in them or be able to serve better the growing educated urban populace and the changing industrial and economic scenario of the nation.

(g) In the policy making body, the Postal Services Board the dearth of grass root level experience is strikingly increasing day by day. The British relied more on the natives with postal back-ground to man the district postal administrations rather than the fresh graduates from Oxford or Cambridge whose services were initially utilised only in the Army Postal Service. Better promotional avenues for the vast dedicated corps of silent and devoted postal personnel will certainly make them commit more for the efficiency of the organisation.

In fact the awakening of the Universal Postal Union by declaring the year 1983 AD as the year of Communications to gear up the Postal Administrations resulted in setting up of an "Expert Committee for Postal Excellence". The restless and nerve straining efforts of Sri K. Diesh, the Architect (Member Secretary) of the Report of the Expert Committee for Postal Excellence and the present Senior Deputy Director General (Quality Management) and Secretary, Postal Services Board have driven the India Post to equip itself with the technological advances desperately needed.

In these efforts of modernising and improving the services, Sri S.C. Mahilik the present Chairman, Postal Services Board has pooled the energies of many senior talented officers at Delhi by diversion of certain sanctioned posts from various states to make the best use of their talents. To say in a word, the whole machinery is geared up to make itself fit to meet the challenges the progressing nation is likely to come in to grips in its march in to the anxiously awaited Twenty First Century.

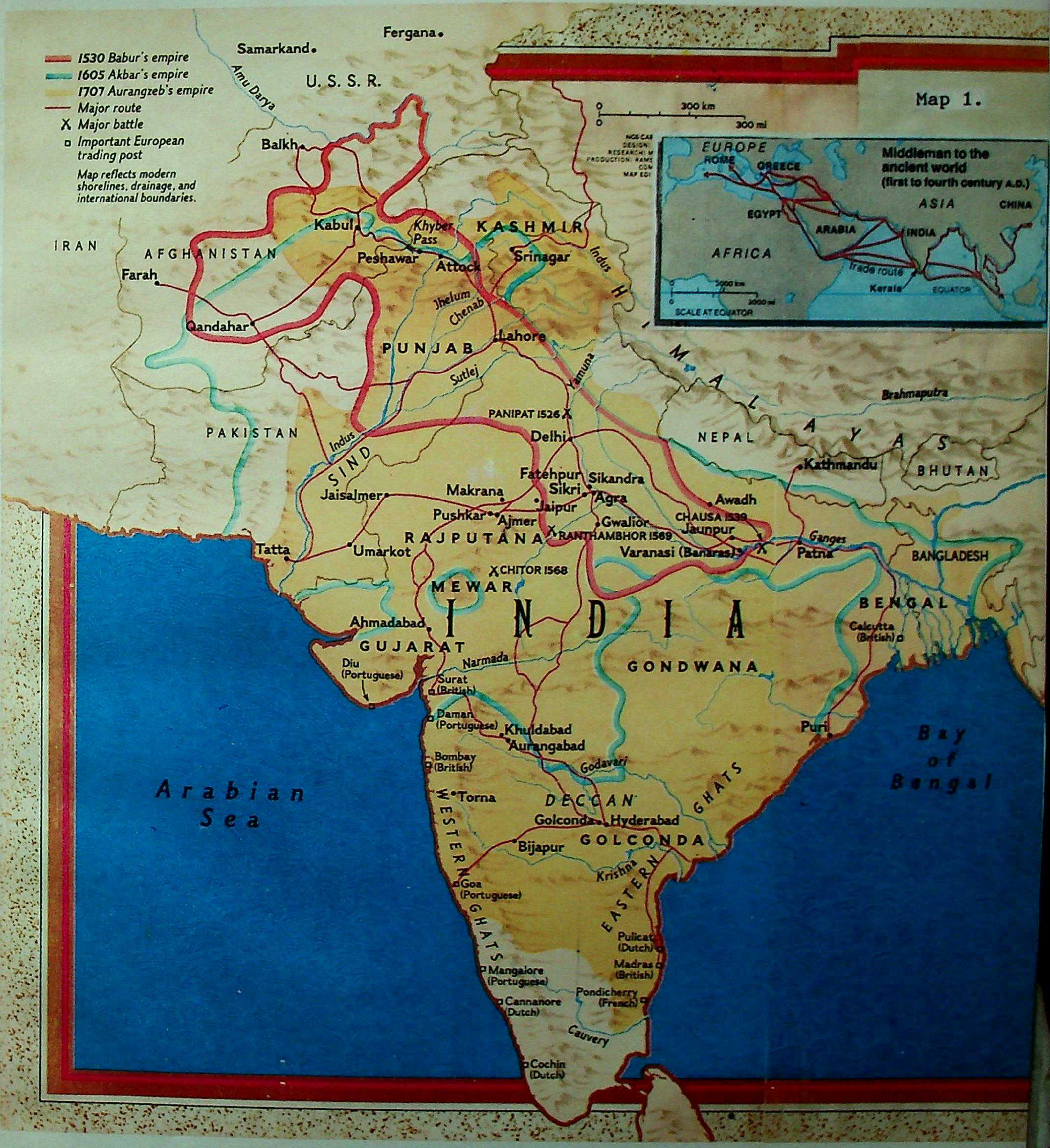
'Jai Bharatiya Dak '	-	Victory to India Post.
'Jai Hind'	-	Victory to India in pursuance of its sacred ideal
'Sarva Manava Saubhratrutvam'	-	Universal Brotherhood.

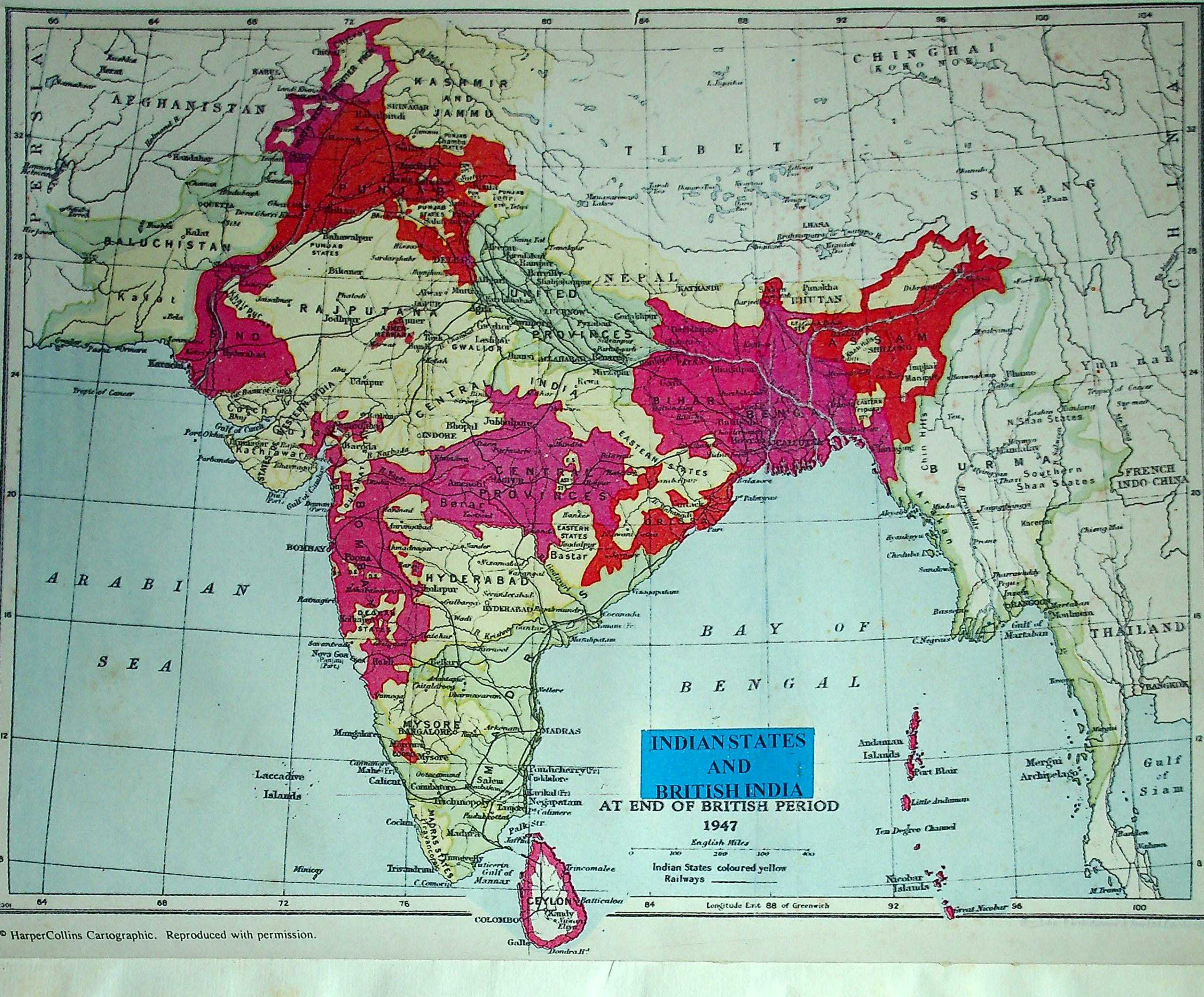
New Delhi,
INDIA.

Dr. H. Noor Ahmed

The Routes in Mughal period and Important European Trading Posts

Map 1.


1530 Babur's empire
1605 Akbar's empire
1707 Aurangzeb's empire
Major route
X Major battle
▫ Important European trading post
Map reflects modern shorelines, drainage, and international boundaries.
300 km
300 mi
EUROPE
ROME
GREECE
EGYPT
ARABIA
AFRICA
ASIA
CHINA
INDIA
Kerala
Trade route
EQUATOR
Middleman to the ancient world (first to fourth century A.D.)
SCALE AT EQUATOR
Fergana
Samarkand
U.S.S.R.
Amu Darya
Balkh
IRAN
AFGHANISTAN
Kabul
Khyber Pass
Peshawar
Attock
KASHMIR
Srinagar
Indus
Farah
Qandahar
Jhelum
Chenab
Lahore
PUNJAB
Sutlej
Yamuna
HIMALAYAS
Brahmaputra
PANIPAT 1526
Delhi
PAKISTAN
Indus
SIND
NEPAL
Kathmandu
BHUTAN
Fatehpur Sikri
Sikandra
Agra
Makrana
Jaisalmer
Jaipur
Pushkar
Ajmer
Gwalior
CHAUSA 1539
Jaunpur
Awadh
RAJPUTANA
RANTHAMBHOR 1569
Varanasi (Banaras)
Ganges
Patna
Tatta
Umarkot
BANGLADESH
CHITOR 1568
MEWAR
INDIA
BENGAL
Calcutta (British)
Ahmadabad
GUJARAT
Narmada
Diu (Portuguese)
Surat (British)
GONDWANA
Daman (Portuguese)
Khuldabad
Aurangabad
Puri
Bay of Bengal
Bombay (British)
Godavari
Arabian Sea
Torna
DECCAN
Golconda
Hyderabad
GOLCONDA
Bijapur
Krishna
WESTERN GHATS
EASTERN GHATS
Goa (Portuguese)
Pulicat (Dutch)
Madras (British)
Mangalore (Portuguese)
Pondicherry (French)
Cannanore (Dutch)
Cauvery
Cochin (Dutch)


INDIANSTATES
AND
BRITISH INDIA
AT END OF BRITISH PERIOD
1947
English Miles
0 100 200 300 400
Indian States coloured yellow
Railways
Longitude East 88 of Greenwich
PERSIA
AFGHANISTAN
BALUCHISTAN
KASHMIR AND JAMMU
PUNJAB
PUNJAB STATES
SIND
RAJPUTANA
NEPAL
TIBET
CHINGHAI (KOKO NOR)
SIKANG
BHUTAN
UNITED PROVINCES
CENTRAL INDIA
CENTRAL PROVINCES
BIHAR
BENGAL
ASSAM
EASTERN STATES
ORISSA
HYDERABAD
MYSORE
MADRAS
MADRAS STATES
BOMBAY
DECCAN STATES
WESTERN INDIA STATES
BURMA
Southern Shan States
N. Shan States
FRENCH INDO-CHINA
THAILAND
CEYLON
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
Gulf of Siam
Laccadive Islands
Andaman Islands
Nicobar Islands
Mergui Archipelago
Tropic of Cancer

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Prologue

INDIA (BHARAT)

Him, the Alone Real, sages call by many names.

— RIG-VEDA.

In the Name of God, Most Gracious and Merciful.
To God belong the East and the West :
Whithersoever ye turn, there is the presence of God.
For God is All - Pervading All - knowing.

— Sura II (Baqara) 115, Holy Quran.

Say ye : " We believe In God, and the revelation given to us,
and to Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, And the Tribes,
and that given to Moses and Jesus,
and that given to (all) Prophets from their Lord :
We make no difference Between one and another of them :
And we bow to God (in Islam). "

— Sura II, Baqara or Heifer 136, Holy Quran.

Hence we have the Creed of Islam : to believe in (1) the One Universal God, (2) the Message to us through Muhammad and the Signs (ayat) as interpreted on the basis of personal responsibility, (3) the Message deleivered by other Teachers in the past. These are mentioned in three groups : (1) Abraham, Ismail, Isaac, Jacob, and the Tribes : of these Abraham had apprently a Book (xxxvii, 19) and the others followed his tradition : (2) Moses and Jesus, who each left a scripture ; these scriptures are still extant, though not in their pristine form : and (3) other sciptures, Prophets, or Messengers of God, not specifically mentioned in the Quran (xi. 78). We make no difference between any of these. Their Message (in essentials) was one, and that is the basis of Islam.

— Note below Sura II, Baqara, 136, Holy Quran.

And Verily this Brotherhood of yours is a single Brotherhood.
And I am your Lord and Cherisher : therefore Fear Me (and no other).
But people have cut off their affair (of unity) Between them, into sects.
Each party rejoices in that which is with itself.

— Sura XXIII, Mu-minun, or the Believers, 52-53, Holy Quran

All other ways are not worth faction of the way of Love, says one early anthology, the Itivuttaka—an analogue of the Sermon on the Mount or of the Analects of Confucius—sayings of the Master collected by disciples. These all made much of Love certainly Sakyamuni (The Budha, India's greatest Son) fulfilled his own ideal of `Benevolence to all, attachment to none.'

— Dr. Kenneth Saunders,
A Pageant of India.

When Jesus was asked which was the greatest the Lord's commandments, he replied : 'Thou shall Love the Lord thy god with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commanment. And the second is like unto it. Thou shall love thy neighbour as thy self. On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets.'

Knowledge No. 67, Volume 6. Page 1059.

All prophets form one Brotherhood : their Message is one, and their religion and teaching are one ; they serve the One True God, Who loves and cherishes them ; and they owe their duty to Him and Him alone. The people who began to trade on the name of the prophets cut off that unity and made sects ; and each sect rejoices in its own narrow doctrine, instead of taking the universal teaching of unity from God.

— Note below Sura XXII 52-53 : Translation and Commentary by Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali.

Ram

Labrez hai sharab-e-haqiqat se jaam-e-Hind
Sab falsaphi hain khittahe maghrib ke Ram-e-Hind
Yeh Hindiyon ke fikr-e-falak ras ka hai asar
Rafat mein aasman se bhi ooncha hai bam-e-Hind
Is desh mein huve hain hazaron mulk sirisht
Mashhoor jin ke dam se hai duniya me naam-e-Hind
Hai Ram ke vajood pe Hindustan ko naaz
Ahal-e-nazar samajhte hain is ko Imam-e-Hind

Divine love is overflowing from the cup of India
All philosophers of the world bow before India
It is due to the high-thinking of the people of India
In stature, the roof of India is higher than the sky
In this country, thousands of nations have been assimilated
Their vitality has made the name of India famous in the world
India is proud of the existence of Ram
For those who see, He is the guardian of Inida

— Allama Dr. Mohammad Iqbal
(Courtesy : Translated by Ms. Bharati Bhargava)
(The Indian Magazine,April 1993, p.19)

We sent not an apostle Except (to teach) in the language
Of his (own) people, in order To make (things) clear to them.

— Sura, XIV, Ibrahim or Abraham, 4-6, Holy Quran

To every people (was sent) An Apostle :

—Sura X 41-46, Yunus or Jonah, Holy Quran

Every prople or generation or nation had its message or Messenger : God revealed himself to it in some way or another

—Note below Sura X, 41-46 Translation and Commentary by Allama Abdullah Yusuf Ali

Endaro Mahanubhavulu — Andariki Vandanalu
Innumerable Great - Salutations to All.

— Sri Gurajada Appa Rao

Chapter One

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VEDIC TO EARLY MODERN AGE

To communicate is an inherent impulse of human being. The need to communicate with each other from far off places had impelled him to find new modes of communication.

The efforts of man to innovate some sort of system to communicate with a distant people are found even in the early ages of the world's story which preceded the dawn of history. In the middle stone age, the primitive hunter was found trying to communicate with his family waiting in the cave. He appears to have used the bone-whistle with which as a returning hunter he was able to announce his coming to the hungry family waiting in the cave.[1] Tracks in the jungle on scrub made by wild animals were taken up by primitive man when out to hunt and where suitable, these were developed into foot tracks for man. The common sanskrit word for "road" or "passage" "marga" is derived presumably from "Mrga" wild animal, and meant "an animal track". The movement of people which has a basic factor in the spread of ideas and objects of civilization in the full sense of that term forms the germs of regularised system of communication.[2]

During the initiatory stages of writing, the mankind had tried to communicate through the medium of ideographic symbols. Even to this day such picture writing survives in use among the North American Indians. The Alaskan natives send their messages in picture form, scratched on a piece of wood representing the idea of "lack of meat in the tepee" without indicating the exact words (vide Illustration No.1). [3] The messages either by word of mouth or letters written on clay or bone, bamboo-slip or wooden staff, brick, bark or leather, cloth, are indicated by coloured strings, had to be laboriously carried - either on foot or on horse back, or by other kinds of transport like carts and carriages, with draught animals like horses or oxen or camel or dogs in different parts of the country.[4]

The Indus valley people of the fourth and third millennia B.C. in possession of a highly developed culture domesticated the humped Gebu, buffalo,and short horned bull, besides the sheep, pig, dog, elephant, and camel; but the cat and probably the horse are unknown to them. For transport they had wheeled vehicles, to which oxen doubtless were yoked. Their society was organised in cities; their wealth derived mainly from agriculture and trade, which appears to have extended far and wide in all directions.[5] The Indus valley civilisation (3000 B.C. to 2200 B.C.) which is considered to be far superior among other ancient civilisations, probably evolved some sort of communication system which is lost in antiquity. On successful decipherment of the pictographic script of the Indus valley, some interesting modes of communication may come into light.

---

[1] Breasted,J.M.Ancient Times.p.18.

[2] Chatterji Dr. Suniti Kumar,"He came home by post" - Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD),p.11.

[3] Ibid, pp.60,61. A figure with empty hands hanging down helplessly, palms down, as a gesture for emptiness or nothing, means "no". A figure with one hand on its mouth means "eating" or "food". It points towards the tent, and this means "in tent". The whole is a message stating,"There is no food in the tent".

[4] Chatterji, Dr. Suniti Kumar, "He came home by post" - Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD) commemorative volume, p.11.

The Aryans or Indo-Aryans, who are stated to have destroyed the fortifications of Indus valley people had the knowledge of the institution of informants and couriers [6] The traces of this institutions of informants and couriers are found in the Rigveda Samhita, and Satapata Brahmana respectively. The Rigvedic culture is believed to have begun in 2000 B.C.[7]

More interesting and detailed accounts of the institution of couriers start appearing from the age of Vedic Kalpsutras (800 B.C. to 500 B.C.).[8] They were professional messengers who were employed by the State and during this period, there were no regular facilities for the public to send their communications from one place to another. A special messenger had to be sent to convey a message to a distant place.[9]

In the works of Panini (600 B.C. to 550 B.C.)[10] are found the mentions of "Janghakara"[11] for courier and references to a special term "Yaujanika", to denote a courier travelling one Yojana.[12]

Cyprus the Great of Persia who ruled the vast empire extending to the Greek cities of Asia Minor and Babylon is accredited with having established the regular courier service and erected 550 post houses throughout Persia. About the middle of the sixth century B.C. we find the hordes of Cyprus (C. 558- 530 B.C.) knocking at the gates of India. During the reign of Darius (522-486 B.C.), Gandhara, the territory around Peshawar and Rawalpindi and the Indus valley as far as the deserts of Rajputana constituted the twentieth and the most populous satrapy of the Persian Empire.[13] The system of regular courier service in use in Persia came to be established in the then Gandhara province.

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[5] Marshall, Sir John, Mohenjodaro and the Indus Civilization, quoted in B.N.Pandey, "A book of India" p.22.

[6] L'Union Postale, 1880,p.21 and Encyclopedia Britannica,f Vol.14, p.884. Egypt in 2400 B.C. is accredited to have had a well organised system of posts, for there were generally couriers on the road carrying letters from Thebes, through Syria, Asia Minor, Babylon and Assyria. The Indus valley civilisation (3000 B.C. to 2200 B.C.) which is considered to be far superior to the contemporary civilisations, probably evolved some sort of communication system which is lost in Antiquity. On successful decipherment of the pictographic script of the Indus valley, some interesting modes of communication may come into light.

[7] Dikshitar, V.R. Ramachandra,Hindu Administrative Institutions,pp.286-87. Also see the Vedic Age, p.210 and Dr. Ram Gopal,India of Vedic Kalpasutras, p.89. The Vedic Age, p.436. Rigvedic people were having the knowledge of the institution of couriers also.

[8] Dr. Ramgopal,India of Vedic Kalpasutras, p.vi. and Dak Tar,july 1959, p.25

[9] Apastambha, D. I, 6-18-28 and Gautama Dharma Sutra,xv,17, as cited in Dr.Ram Gopal's op.cit.p.141.

[10] Dr. Ramgopal, op. cit., p.81. Dr. Ram Gopal considering elaborately all the earlier arguments is convinced to fix the date of Panini at about 600 B.C. to 550 B.C.

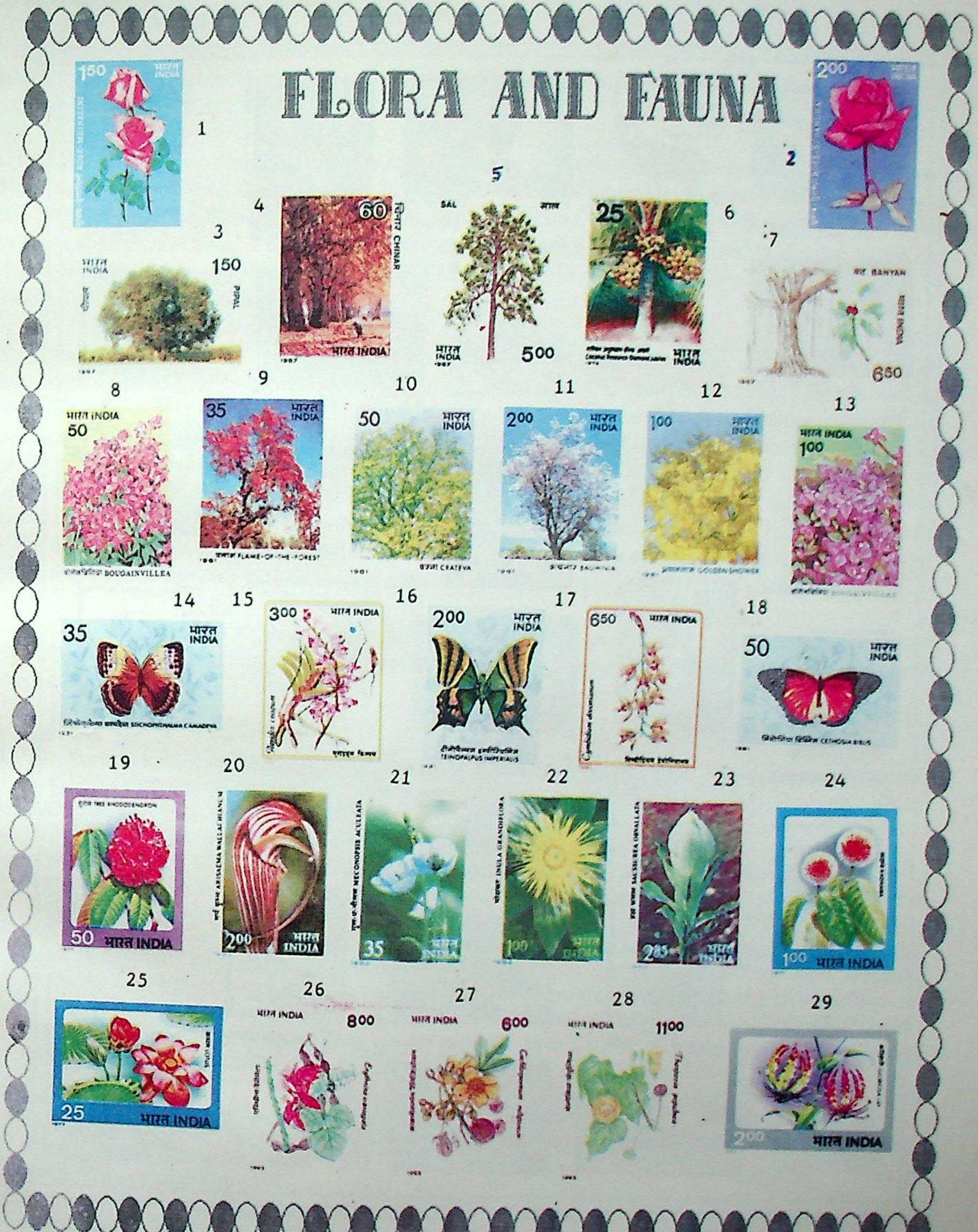
[11] Panini, Ashtadhyayi, III, 2.21 as quoted in Agarwala, Dr. V.S. India as Known to Panini, p.410. Also see Arthasastra, II. 1, p.46, Kautilya refers as "Jangharika."

[12] Panini, Ashtadhyayi, V.1.74 (Yojanam gachchati) as cited in Agarwala, Prof. V.S., op. cit., p.410.

[13] Majumdar, R.C., etc, "An advanced History of India, p.64.

PLATE 1

FLORA AND FAUNA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BANYAN
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BOUGAINVILLEA
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FLAME-OF-THE-FOREST
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CRATEVA
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BAUHINIA
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GOLDEN SHOWER
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STICHOPHTHALMA CAMADEVA
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16
TEINOPALPUS IMPERIALIS
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18
CETHOSIA BIBLIS
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RHODODENDRON
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ARISAEMA WALLICHIANUM
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MECONOPSIS ACULEATA
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INULA GRANDIFLORA
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SAUSSUREA OBVALLATA
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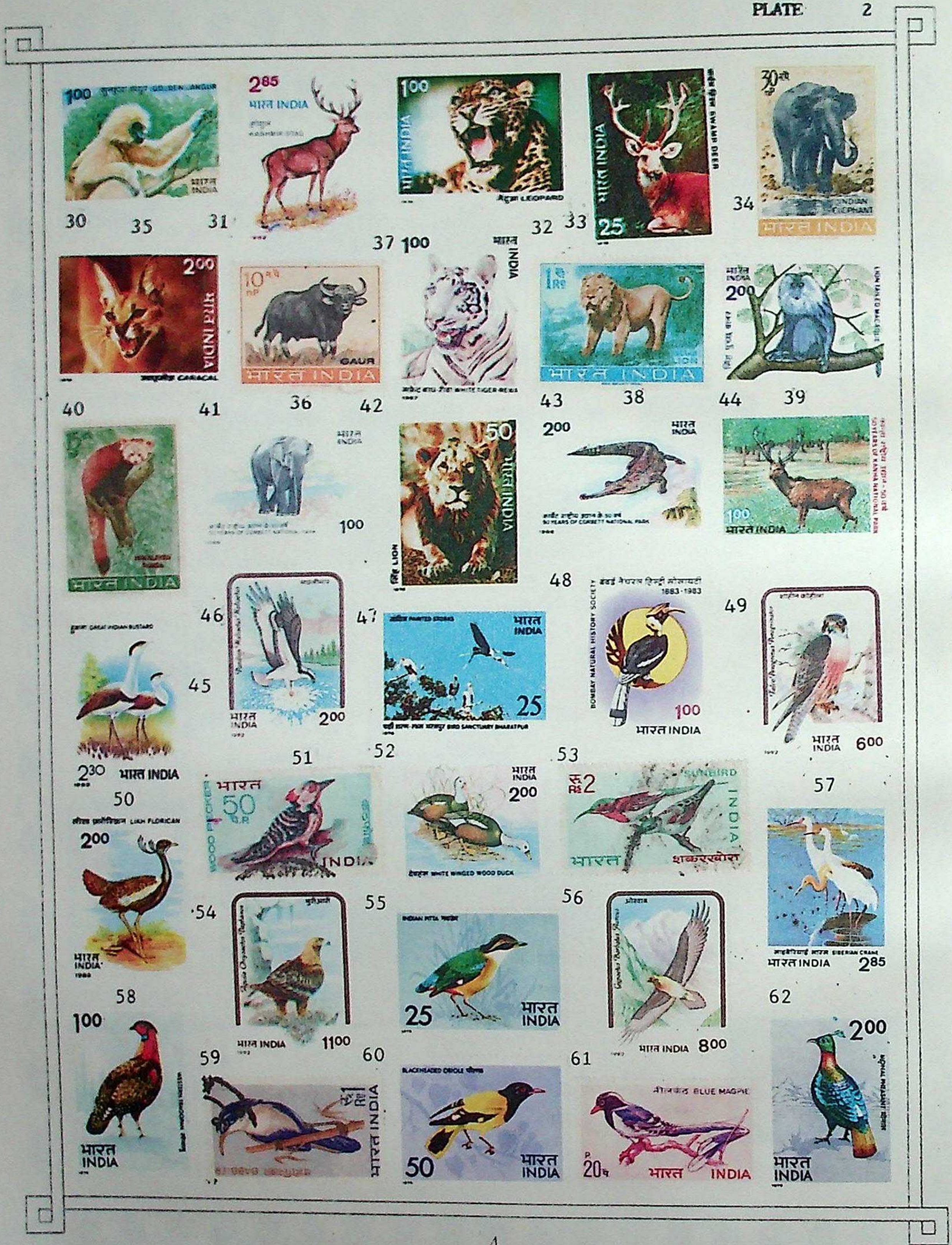
भारत INDIA

PLATE 2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Katyayana (4th Centrury B.C.)[14] mentions about "Yaujanastika" to mean a courier who is deputed in an errand of a hundred youjanas.[15] This is in complete agreement with Kautilya who refers to the speed of Mauryan courier service in terms of the distance they travelled from one yojana to a hundred yojanas.[16]

A systematic courier service was found during the reign of Chandra Gupta Maurya (321 - 297 B.C) for the despatches of intelligence and confidential reports from outlying provinces of the vast country to the Emperor.

Chandra Gupta's empire stretched from Afganistan to the frontiers of Burma and was governed from his capital Patiliputra (Patna). He divided the vast area into provinces each under a governor. The difficulty of communication between the capital city and various provincial capitals was solved by the use of pigeon post. Letters in cachets were hung from the necks or tied in capsule in the leg of pigeons who were trained to fly to their destination. This system also continued in the time of Ashoka, grandson of Chandra Gupta.

Arthasastra (321 B.C. to 296 B.C.) deals with the institution of informants elaborately. Kautilya says that the informants should be set in motion against inimical, friendly and neutral kings as well as the various departments of the State.[17] The Court kept watch over the rural functionaries by means of special agents who are called, "Overseers" and "Inspectors" by the Greek authors[18] and mentioned in the Ashokan dicts as the king's "men" or "reporters".[19] The duty of these officers was to superintendent or oversee all that occured in town or country and to make private reports to the government. Similar officers were employed by the authorities of the independent nations as well as by the monarchial governments of India. They have also utilised as co-adjuters the courtesans of the camps and city, to transmit at time to their masters strange pockets of scandalous gossip.[20]

To facilitate travel of these officers, piligrims and general public, there was a special order by Ashoka the Great for digging wells and planting trees along the public highways during third century before Christ.[21]

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14. Panini - Kalina Bharatavarsha, p.470 as cited in Dr. Ram Gopal, op. cit., p.88. Katyayana may be placed in the 4th Century B.C.
15. Agarwala, Prof. V.S., op. cit., p.410.
16. Arthasastra, V.C. p.248 as cited in Agarwala Prof. V.S., op. cit., p.410.
17. Bhandarkar, Prof. D.R., Some Aspects of Ancient Hindu Polity, p.32. Also see Dikshitar, V.R. Ramachandra, Hindu Administrative Institutions, pp286-87. Also see Kautilya, Arthsastra, Ek 1.12 (Tr. R. Ramaswamy) pp.17-22.
18. Starbo, XV, 1.50.52 of Fragm XXXIV of the Indika of Megasthenes quoted in McCrindle, J.W., Ancient India as described by Megasthenes and Arrian, p.86. Duties of many of these officers have not been enumerated by the Greek authors. Some of these must have consisted of an inspectorial system existed to control the operation and maintenance of a communication organisation. Smith, V.A., The Oxford History of India, pp.89-91. The writings of Megasthenes pertain to circa 305 B.C. Also see Arrian strabo XV. 48, quoted in Smith V.A., The Early History of India, from 600 B.C. to the Muhammedan Conquest., p.136.

19. Ashokan Pillar Edict IV as cited in Beni Madhab Barua, "Ashoka and his inscriptions" Pt. I & II, p.195. Also see Ashokan Rock Edict VI (Kalsi Dehradun U.P. version) as quoted in Basak, Dr. Radhagovinda, Ashokan Inscriptions, p.35.
20. Smith, V.A., op.cit.p.136.
21. Kaye, John Williams, The Administration of the East India Company, p.25. Mukherji, Radha Kumud, Chandra Gupta Maurya and his times, p.121 Macrindle, Ancient India, pp.86-87. Ten stadia were equal to some Indian measure of distance, which must have been the Krosa or Kosa. If the medium be taken at 202 1/2 yards, this would give 2022 1/1 yards for the Kos.

Ashoka also in one of his inscriptions (Rock Edict VI) refers to officers whom he calls "Prativedakas" (reporters) whose duty was to report to the king to whom they had free access; at all hours and places, on what was going on in the country (atheme janasya prativedethiaiti). In Pillar Edict IV, Ashoka refers to Rajukas (Great officers) whose usual duties was to construct roads and at every ten stadia (According to Pillar Edict. VII at every half kos) set up a pillar, to indicate the roads and distances.

During the Gupta period (Cir. 330 AD to 500 AD), the commercial corporations and guilds called Srenis utilised and developed a communication system suited to their requirements.[22] Their need to transmit bills of exchange and advices and instructions appears to have given birth to a "Hundi" system. The private messengers employed by these Srenis and their organisations comprising of bankers (sreshthis), traders (sarthavahas) and artisans (kulikas), generally used the trade routes which were also the pilgrim routes.[23]

The caravans of pack oxen led by a class of people called 'Vanijyakaras' (in modern Indian Language Banjaras) used to travel from one part of India to another, doubtless carrying with them the letters and messages among the tradesman themselves and among private individuals also, although these people were mainly carriers of goods. The merchant community of India linking up with trade the whole of country from Afghanistan to Bengal and Assam and from Kashmir to Cape Comorin, had to run their own methods of communication (doubtless through the 'Banjaras' and through State co-operation) for transmission of money from one city to another by the system of deposits and pay orders ('Hundies'). Itinerant religious mendicants ('Sanyasis') or people in the garb of mendicants were used for espionage purposes by the State, and private persons as well as rulers of States might also have taken advantage of their peregrinations. Besides these persons like, pilgrims to shrines and religious mendicants, the rulers and some powerful magnets communicated through singers and artists on move.[24]

The lines of thought governing the institutions of informants, couriers and messengers on private employ do not entirely come to close, but they merely revolved in circles even after the tenth century AD.[25]

India at the advent of Arabs and Turks though remained culturally and commercially united, politically it was divided into certain independent kingdoms, who were all interested only in administering their own separate kingdoms, a task that did not involve the maintenance of a country-wide network of a communication system.

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[22] Beni Prasad, Theory of Government in Ancient India, p.308. The commercial corporations or guilds, the references to which are found in the Vedic literature, the Brahmanas, the Dharmsutras, Buddhist and Jaina literatures, Kautilya's Arthsastra, the Smiritis and Nitisastras, occupy a more prominent place and stand in definite relations towards the state.

[23] Radhakumud Mookerji, Local Government in Ancient India, p.36,41 and 148. Also see Satynarayana, K., A Study of the History and Culture of Andhras, Vol.II, p.51.

[24] Chatterji, Dr. Suniti Kumar, ibid, p.12.

[25] Beni Prasad, op. cit. p.243.

[26] Majumdar, R.C., ibid, p.281. Ibn-i-Khurdaz, p.57, Faristha No.I, p.25 and Chah-Namah (Manuscript), Khuda Bakshah library Patna, cited by Saiyed Alizafar, Nadvi in the article entitled, "The Postal system of Medieval Hind - Pakistan". P.202.

With the conquest of Sind and Multan by Mohammed-bin-Qasim, the nephew of Hajjaj-b-Yusuf Thaqafi, the Governor of Iraq (711- 713 A.D) an efficient communication system between Iraq and India was established. Al-Hajjaj wrote a letter every third day to his nephew, the conqueror of Sind. The letter used to reach the Arab cantonment of Sind via Wasit, the capital of Iraq within seven days. This was done with the help of relay horses. When trade developed the Barid (post) stations were set up from Basrah to Isle of Khanam and from there to the Isle of Lavan and from this place to Sind. Similar methods were adopted by Mahamud for receiving communications in Sindh when Mahamud of Ghaznah began his Indian invasion from C.1000 AD. Under Ghaznavids two kinds of Daks were in vogue; namely that carried by footmen and horsemen.[26]

The Sultanate of Delhi established in 1206 AD had its communication system known as "Barid",[27] from the beginning.[28] Qutb-ud-din Aibak possessed his staff of news-writers.[29] Sultan Balban had developed it and its efficiency contributed substantially to his administrative success.[30] It had been described as "one of the most potent instruments of his despotism".[31]

The Sultans realising the strategic significance of good communications, built-up a well-knit system of receiving information from different parts of their empire. In a conquered country, their security and authority depended upon the soundness and efficiency of their organisation, in which a good communication system was an important element.

The urgency of maintaining a developed courier system increased, as time went on, with the repeated incursions of the Mongols on the one-side and expansion of the empire on the other. It is narrated that in 1299 AD when the Mongolian leader Qutlug Khwaja crossed the Sind with 20 tunams (2,00,000 soldiers) with the object to conquer and govern the country, Sultan Ala-ud-din Khalji received the news in advance and had at his disposal time of a week or two to summon his troops from different parts of his empire.[32]

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27. Encyclopedia of Islam, Vol.I, p.658. The "Barid" means a "post-animal","post-horse", then, "courier" it further means the institution of "post" and finally the distance between two post stations. Also see "Culturejeshichte de Orients" (translated by Khuda Baksh), p.230-31, the word "Barid" was generally adopted by the Sultanate for the news-reporters.

28. Farooquee, Dr. A.K.M. "Roads and Communications in Mughal India", p.125. The Sultanate appears to have borrowed the "Barid" system from Abbasids. Amir Ali, Syed A shor History of the Saracens, p.417. The Abbasids attached greater importance to the barid. Ibn-Khurdedah, who himself filled the office of the Postmaster - General under the caliph Mutamid says that in the Central Empire, there were 930 postal stations on the six great high roads starting from Baghdad with some relay stations in between.

29. Tariq-i-baihaqi, pp.85,139 as cited in Quereshi, Prof. Ishtiaq Ahmed,"Administration of Sultanate of Delhi," p.90 Also see Hussain, S.A.O., Administration under the Mughals, p.72. The Sultan employed a large number of Ghanznawid and Abbasid officials in his administrative institutions.

30. Barani Ziauddin, Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, p.44-45, as cited in Habibullah. Foundation of Muslim Rule in India, Reprint, 1967, Allahabad, p.164.

31. Ibid, p.164. Driven out from their home lands by Mongols, a long number of officials and generals arrived in the next few years of establishment of the Sultanate of Delhi. The Sultanate thus came to possess expert administrators within the first two decades of its foundation.

32. Ed. Habib, Mohammed and Nizami K.A., A Comprehensive History of India, pp.337-38.

Ala-ud-din Khalji depended for the success of his reforms on a developed system of reporters.[33] He received regular news of the progress of his Army while on expedition[34] and stages linking him to Delhi were set up whenever he was out of the capital. Ziauddin Barni wrote of the use of horsemen and swift runners during the reign of Alauddin Khalji. *"It was the practice of Sultan"* (he wrote in 1310 AD), *"to establish posts on the road..... at every half or quarter kos, paiks" (runners) were posted and at every town and sub-division on the day a clerk was deputed to keep him informed of daily happenings"*. Mubarak Shah Khalji took a further step in strengthening the communication system between the North and South India on annexation of the Kingdom of Devagiri in 1318 AD.[35] The soldiers on expedition were able to communicate with their families. There were instances of Sultan Alauddin's post carrying such letters.[36]

Soon after 1321 AD: under Ghiyasuddin Tughluq, the communications link had stretched to Warrangal which the young Mohammed Bin Tughlaq was sent to conquer. Muhammed bin Tughluq succeeded in annexing the far flung areas such as Devagiri, Warrangal and Madura. His conquests and consolidations had helped in the expansion of the communication areas. In South India, the Telugu poet Ketana in his 'Andhrabhasha Bhushanam,' indicates in a verse "that the main route of Ayodhya from Kanchi passed through Nellore and Orugallu (Warrangal)." [36a] Mahammed Bin Tughluq also appears to have followed the same route and came as for as Warrangal while proceeding to Madhura to put down the rebellion there in person.

Ibn Batuta pays a high tribute to the efficiency of the news service under the Sultan Mohammed Bin Tughluq.[37] Kos Minars found mentioned in the writings of Ibn Batuta, "At every third mile, villages are built, and on the outskirts of every village minarets are constructed. At every minaret foot runners are ready with their waists belted and a stick two yards long with small ringing bells of copper at its end. The foot runner runs with great speed with the postal bag in one hand and stick in the other. The next foot runner gets ready at the sound of the small bells which can be heard from about a mile off. He takes bag from him and runs without delay. The foot runners were stated to be swifter than the 'ulagh' or horse dak, whose rider and mounts were changed at every four kos. [38]

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[33] Fuller, A.R., and Khallaque, A., The Reign of Alauddin Khalji (Tr. of Barani's Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi) pp.105-110. The Sultan in his seventh Regulation of Market control had the provision to appoint trustworthy 'Barid-i-Mandi' (Reporter of Market) who, together with the Shinnah-i-Mandi (Inspector of Market) had to report to the Sultan on the State of the market and rates of grain, etc.

[34] Barani Ziyauddin, Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, pp.330-32 as cited in Kishori Sharanlal, History of Khaljis, p.167. Faristha, Lucknow ed. cited in the article "The Postal system of Medieval Hind-Pakistan" by Sayed Alizafar Nadvi, p.203.

[35] Masnavi Sahifatul Ausaf, Nelson Wright, The Coinage and Metrology of Sultanate of Delhi, p.109 as cited in Syed Azam's article entitled "Growth of Cities in Deccan During Medieval Period", in Journal of Historical Studies (University of Mysore) Vol.12, 1976, pp.19-25.

[36] Shams-i-Siraj Afif, Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, 182, 183 and 211 as cited in Quereshi, op. cit. p.212.

[36a] ibid and Sharma, M.S. History of the Reddy Kingdom, p.390.

[37] Tuhafat-un-muzzar bi Gharaibi-il-amsarwa ajaib-il-astar, ii pp.2-3 as cited in Quereshi, op. cit. p.90.

[38] Rihlah, quoted in Sayed Alizafar Nadvi, "The Postal system of Medieval Hind-Pakistan", p.204.

Remarking on the speed, Ibn Batuta wrote, "From Sa'ustan to Multan it was 10 days' journey, and from Multan (Sind) to Delhi, 50 days ". But the dak reached the king within 5 days. The passage of goods by horse and some times by runners, had begun in Mohammed Bin Tughluq's time. Fresh fruit from Khurasan was taken to the king in Daultabad and so was "Ganges water". "The Sultan had organised a system by which signals could be speedily transmitted. The messages were sent by relays of sound of drum. At every 12 miles a drum house was built, and drummers sat there by turns all day and night. When they heard a drum signal booming out, they would take up the beat, and the previous drummer, hearing the passage of his message, would fall silent. Qal Qashandi wrote in his Sub-al-Aasha that drums were kept in important places in serial order. When the king halted in one of the city, and when the gates of the city were opened and closed, strokes were given on the drums. The drum beaters were trained how to beat drums for certain events. The news of victory, defeat, sudden invasion of enemy, rebellion, murders, plunder, births of a prince, death, marriage or important functions were thus relayed by particular kinds of beatings of drums.

When the Sultan went to Devagiri, he posted dhawa or palki (palanquin) at every mile. He built one bungalow or khanqah at every manzil (stage), where a "Shaikh" lived. The place was equipped with all the necessary provisions for daily use and all the conveniences needed for a guest. All the necessary provisions were provided in order that the passengers should not feel any inconvenience.[39]

According to Ibn Batuta, the highways in northern India were infested by robbers. About Malabar the Arab traveller says that the journey along the shore from Sindhanur to Kanlam in Malabar took 2 months and the whole of the way by land lied under the shade of trees, and at the distance of every half mile there was the house made of wood, in which there was a chamber fitted up for the reception of comers and goers. At each of such chamber, a well is stated to have been provided with an attendant appointed to give drink.[40]

The Sayyids and Lodis also developed their means of securing information.[41] Under the Delhi Sultanate, besides other principal departments, there was the Barid-i-mamalik, chief news writer of the kingdom under whom were numerous "Barid", posted in every administrative sub-division, towns, bazars and in almost every inhabited locality.[42] They reported every important incident to the chief who communicated them to the Sultan. They reported on the arrival of foreigners in the dominions, on matters of special interest, on the doings of various officials, even on the gossip of the bazars and the feelings of the people.[43] Besides reporting on public affairs they also spied on the conduct of the local officials. In effect, the Barid-i-mamalik's department combined the function of an exclusive government news organsiation with those of secret intelligence service.[44] All the dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate maintained a system of the fast post with varying degrees of efficiency.

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[39] Muntakhab-al-Tawarik, vol-I, p.226 cited in Saiyed Alizafar Nadvi,"The Postal system of Medieval Hind-Pakistan", p.205.

[40] The Travels of Ibn Batuta translated from Arabic by Rev.Samuel and quoted in Kaye, John Williams, "The Administration of the East India Company", p.26.

[41] Daudi, ff.37b, 389, 103b and Tabaqat-i-Akbari (i),p.307; ii. p.106 as cited in Quereshi, op. cit. p.90. Barani, Ziyauddin, Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, Calcutta, 1862, pp.24,38 as cited in Habibullaha, A.B.M., The Foundation of Muslim Rule in India, p.239. Also see Barani Ziyauddin, Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, p.25, Siyasatnamash, p.43 as cited Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain, op. cit. p.89.

[42] Nizamul Mulk, Tust, Siyasatnamah, Ed. Scheeffer, C, Paris, 1897, pp. 57-58 as quoted Habibullah, ABM, The Foundation of the Muslim Rule in India, p.239.

[43] CCPS No: 109 of 1972 of PB, Universal Postal Union. Berne, p.149.

To govern their vast empire effectively, the Mughals had to ensure the maximum degree of co-ordination and co-operation, vertically between central, provincial and local authorities and horizontally between officials at each level of government. The empire needed a comprehensive, accurate, and frequent information from every quarter and to attain these ends a reliable dak system was maintained by the Mughals.[45]

Babur, the founder of Mughal Empire in India, developed the horse and runner services along the road from his capital at Agra up to Kabul. One of the Babur's administrative steps after the first battle of Panipat was to measure the Agra Kabul road and establish stations of six horses every 18 Kos (36 miles) for conveyance of the communications. He established regular and efficient communication between different parts of his territory as well as with Afghanistan and some other countries.[46] Babur wrote in his biography "Tuzuki-i-Babari". On `panj shambah' (Thursday) it was resolved that Chaqmaq Beg accompanied by Royal `Tamagachi' clerks should make a survey from Agra to Kabul in jaribs (one kos was 200 jaribs) and at every 9 miles "minar" a turret should be erected which should be 12 yards in height and on that pillar "chawkidaris" should be built. "The role of these minars appear to have been linked with security as well as communication.[47] (For Kos Minar see Illustration 3). At every 18 miles barid (post) stations of six horses were posted.

Good roads were not much in evidence in medieval India. Roads were just hardened tracks, generally difficult to negotiate during the rains. Elephants in forest areas and bullocks in plains, and camels in the dry tracts, and of course horses, were the most sure transport in India - particularly foot runners all over the country.[48] Shershah Suri (1540 - 1545 AD) re-organised and developed the communication system. He also employed the mounted post. The Shah constructed the Grand Trunk Road from Peshwar to Sunargaon, (near Dhaka in present Bangladesh) and other roads from Agra to Burhanpur and to Chittor, and from Lahore to Multan. (see Map No 1). He built 1700 Sarais (Highway Rest houses) all along these roads at a distance of two leagues (12 miles) from each other which were called "Caravan-sarais". In each Rest house two horses were kept ready for despatch of news. The intention was conveyance of news both ways. It is stated that he used to receive news daily from Bengal, Punjab, Malwa, Rajputana, Bihar and other parts of the empire. Sher Shah's messengers carried news from Bengal to Rohtas in Punjab (nearly 1400 miles) in less than a week on which an ordinary traveller took 4 months to traverse.[49] It is stated that he kept 3400 horses and their riders for the transmission of news.

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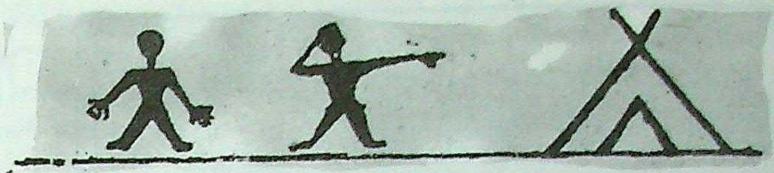
44. Hasan Nizami, Taj-ul-Mathir, f.183. a, Tabaqat-i-Akbari, i, pp.166, 337, ii. p.106 Afif, p.182-83, 211, Tariq-i-Daudi, ff.259, 789, Erskine, W.A. History of India under the First Two Sovereigns of the House of Taimur, Vol. I & 2, i, p.350, as cited in Quereshi Ishtiaq Ahmed. Administration of the Sultanate of Delhi, p.90.

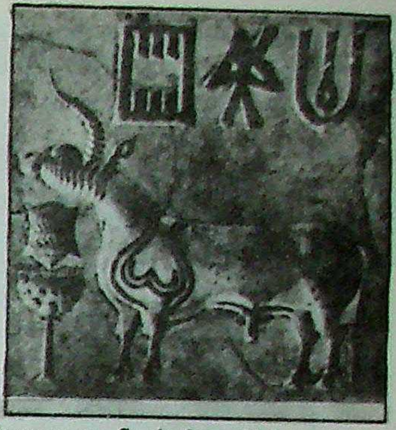
45. Farooquee, Dr. A.K.M., Roads and Communications in Mughal India, pp.128-29. "Dak" literally meant "post" i.e., properly transport by relays of men and horses and thence " the mail" or "letter post" as well as any arrangement for travelling or transmitting by such relays. Chatterji, Dr. Suniti Kumar, ibid... p.14. Dak is a `desi' (indigenous) or non-Sanskrit word of unknown origin, which means a shout: a Dakait (anglice "Dacoit") is "one who comes with a gang to rob by raising a shout and noise (to frighten the people). It means that the Harkara or post runner with his stick with its jingling bells, or the gallopping horsemen, used to shout from a distance to warn the main incharge, when nearing a choultry or Chowki (stopping place) used as a spot for a postal change, men and horse; and from this, the letters of communications which were expected to be received and delivered came to be known as "Dak". ARPO (Activities) 1970-71, p.33. 45. (b) ARPO 1992-93, p.28.

46. Baburnama (Tr. A.S. Beveridge), Delhi, 1970 edn. pp. 629-30, 445-46, 642, 646 as cited in Farooquee, op. cit. p.126. 47. Baburnama, (Tr. AS. Beveridge), pp.445, 338. 48. Chatterji, Dr.Suniti Kumar, ibid, p.13.

ILLUSTRATIONS

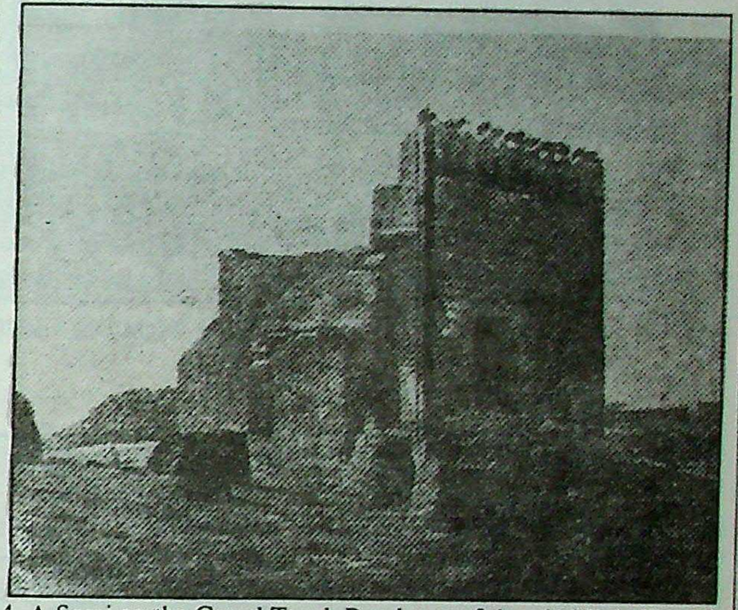


1. Message in a picture from scratched on a piece of wood

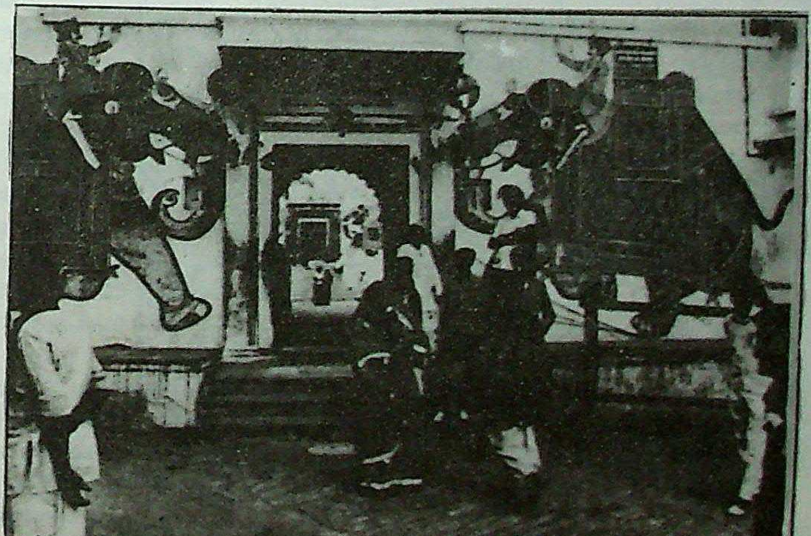


2. Statues ans Seals from "Mohenjo Daro

3. A Kos Minar of Sher Shah Suri's time at Dellhi Zoo

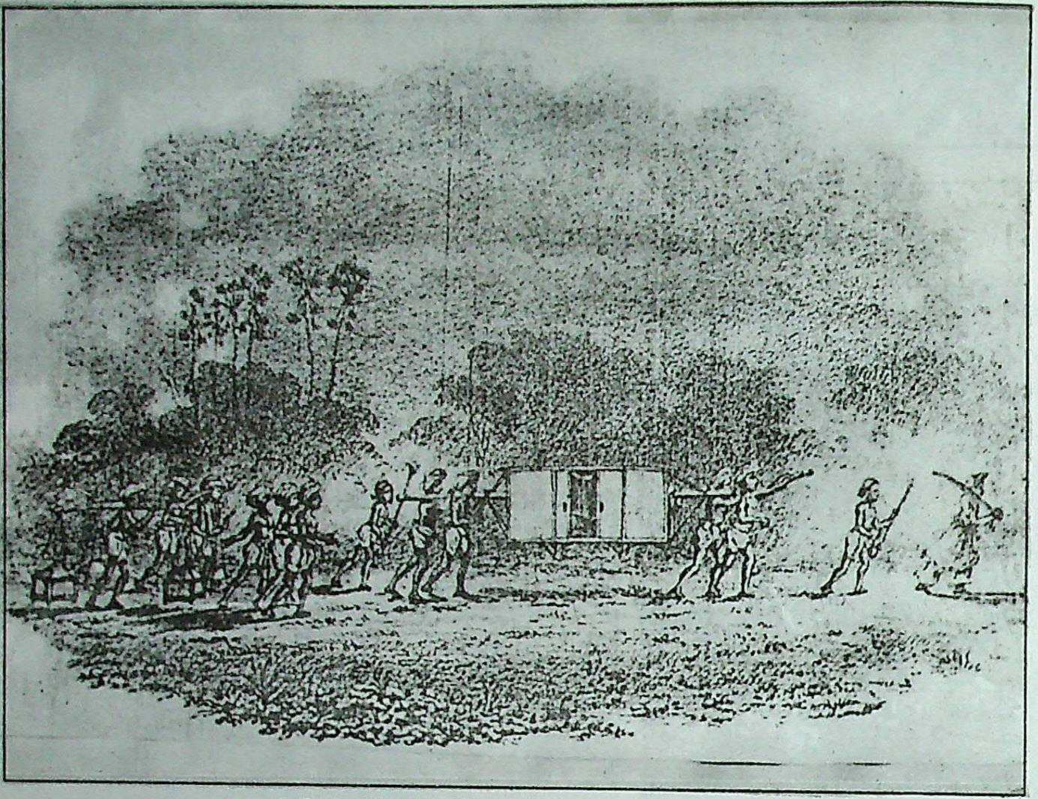


4. A Sarai on the Grand Trunk Road-one of the old "Dak Chaukis"

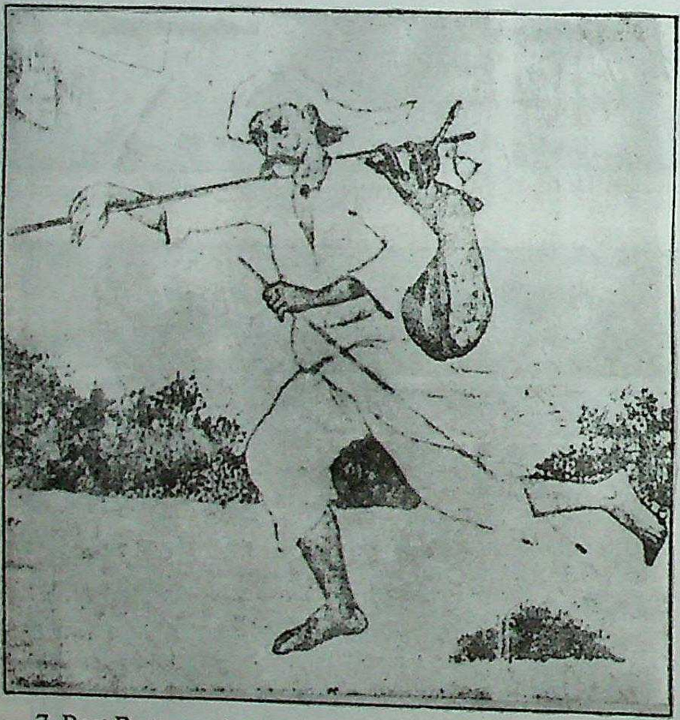


5. Temple of Sri Nathji at Nathdwara

ILLUSTRATIONS



6. Travelling by Night Dak - 1830s AD.



7. Post Runner - A painting by Rapur Singh 1866 AD.

Akbar strengthened his kingdom and took keen interest in making the communication system effective. He established Dak Chawkis throughout his dominion having 2 horses and a set of `Meora' (Mehras) footmen stationed at every five miles on the principal roads and placed Turki swift horses at each stage.[50]

One of these post houses can still be seen on the road between Agra and Sikandra. (see Illustration 4). The news reached within five days from Agra to Ahemedabad (Gujarat). Whenever any person had to go from the kings presence on some special errand or had to alter the royal count, immediately he used to travel the distance on horses of Dak chawki. Four thousand swift horses were under State service. It often happened that Meora (Mehras) crossed seven hundred miles on foot within ten days and then reached the desired manzil (stage).[51]

Dak Chawkis not only carried letters, farmans, and messages but were also entrusted with other responsibilities. Provincial revenues, army, fruits from distant provinces, even Ganges water were swiftly and safely transported by them. Revenue and Peshkash[52] were taken to the district treasuries, when scouts escorted the couriers from one station to another. Probably bullocks and carts were also changed and fresh escorts joined the train.[53] Under Jahangir, the management of horse dak was superior to other systems. The construction of roads and their security had facilitated travelling with the result that commodities came from Baghdad, Syria, Samarqand and Bukhara in large quantities. It is stated that India imported fresh fruits from distant places. Jahangir is said to have ordered that pigeons were to be trained. These trained pigeons were first tested between Mardu and Burhanpur. It was proved that if rain and wind were not exceptionally heavy they could cover the distance in three hours.[54]

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49. Saiyed Abu Zafar Nadvi's article entitled "The Postal System of Medieval Hind-Pakistan" in Journel of the Pakistan Histroical Society, Vol.II, Part I, p.206 Arif Qandahari, Tarikh- i-Akbari, Rampur, 1962, p.43 etc. as cited in Farooquee, op. cit. p.127. Kaye, John William, The Administration of the East India Company, p.25. The broad road strerching from Bengal to the banks of the Indus at Rhotas, along which noble rows of trees and wells of good water at short intervals, shaded and refreshed travellers invited the weary and the hungry to enter.
50. Ali Qamdahari, Tarikh-i-Akbari, Rampur, 1962, p.43 etc. as cited in Farooquee, op. cit., p.127 Dak Chawkis were full of harkaras who lived in the Chawkis and immediately ran to the next Chawki when they received a letter. There were in all 4000 Mewras, who were traditionally regarded as good-runners, posted at these chawkis to relay news from all parts of the empire. The mounted messengers, usually brought the letters from Bengal to Agra (if from Dacca to Agra, then 990 miles) in seven days and from Gujrat (Ahmedabad) 534 miles (if from Surat then 680 miles) to Agra in five.
51. Tuzuki-i-Jahangiri, p.211, lucknow ed. cited in Saiyed Alizafar Nadvi, "The Postal System of Medieval Hind-Pakistan, Geoffry Clarke, The post office of India and its story, p.12.
52. Farooquee, op. cit., p.138. Peshkash - tribute payable by native chiefs, also gifts offered by nobles, foreign merchants, and others on special occassions as to secure favours.
53. Ali Muhammed Khan, Mirat-i-Ahmadi Supplement, Baroda, 1928 as cited in Farooquee, Op. cit., p.138,228.
54. Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri, p.101 cited in Saiyed Alizafar Nadvi,"The Postal System of Medieval Hind-Pakistan", p.208. Jahangir writes "I ordered these pigeon dealers to train them. They trained five pairs in such a way that when I saw them flying from Malwar even though it was raining heavily, they reached Burhanpur in two or 1 1/2 pahars (six hours or 4 1/2 hours). If the atmosphere is calm and quite, they can reach in one pahar (three hours).

As the Empire expanded, more and more Dak chawkis were established. The marked expansion in their numbers which began under Jahangir continued under Shahjahan, who ordered Aurangzeb, the governor of the Deccan, to build new dak chawkis between Hyderabad and Karnataka.[55] Other were soon established between Hyderabad and Burhanpur and were placed in charge of Zamindars and other officials.[56] Further at the second siege of Qandahar, Aurangzeb feeling the absence of adequate and effective Dak Chawkies there, established his own.[57]

Aurangzeb's special interest in the Dak system led him to establish many more Dak chawkis throughout the Empire. After the war with the Pathans, a chain of chawkis was established in 1678 AD between the Peshawar valley and Kabul.[58] The Mirat-i-Ahmadi lists new Dak stations constructed between Ahmedabad and Khandabpurani, to link Gujarat with Ajmer.[59] Another chain of Dak chawkis was established between Ahmedabad and Broach and then on to Surat. Under Aurangzeb the communication and secret service departments were in effect amalgamated working together under the Darogha-i-Dak Chawki.[60] In Aurangzeb's reign, when foot men who did not cover 'one kos in one Ghari' were fined. Letters normally reached Delhi from Ahmedabad in 12 days, but "express" mail took only 5 to 7 days. There were 37 "Dak Chawkis" on the Ahmedabad - Agra route, 16 between Ahmedabad and Broach. Six towns, Agra, Broach, Surat, Ajmer, Ahmedabad and Aurangabad had become important concentration centres of Dak. The "Thanadars" and "Zamindars" were responsible for the security of Dak route and its management. It was the duty of every Thanadar or Zamindar to exert them safely beyond their jurisdiction.[61]

The Dak Chawkis were the imperial centres for communication of information. On occasion nobles and princes used its services.[62]

The Mughals used courier-pigeons. The pigeons were kept to carry letters in time of need of great urgency or during siege. But these were used only over shorter distances. The court nobles also used pigeons to carry messages and intelligence.[63]

Waqia-navis of each locality was the most important officer associated with the communication department since Babur's time.[64] The Waqais were the confidential reports sent by these official news-reporters for the perusal of the emperor and his confidential ministers. The system of sending money also existed. The king and the nobles sent money through 'Dak', but its 'Chawkis' were not in close quarters like that of the stations of foot runners. After Ahmedabad for instance the next chawki happened to be Ajmer, the third was Agra and the fourth Delhi. Coins were put in boxes under lock and key. The officer of the next chawki checked while taking charge and then sealed and despatched it to the next chawki. The security of the contents was guaranteed. These were carried under armed mounted guard.

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55. Abul Fateh Qabil Khan, Adab-i-Alamgiri. Rampur Mss. L 130, folio, 155 as cited in Farooquee, p.140.
56. Adab, L. 153 folio 192, as quoted in Farooquee, Op. cit, p.140.
57. Adab, L 12, folio 8, as quoted in Farooquee, op. cit. p.140.
58. Bruce, J. Annals of Honourable East Indian Company, II, London, 1810, p.47 as quoted in Farooquee, Op. cit. p.140. 59. Mirat (Supp.) Op. cit., p.151 and as quoted in Farooquee's Op. cit., p.140.
60. Ibid. and Farooquee, Op. cit., p.146.
61. Mirat (Supp) Op. Cit. p.153, quoted in Article entitled, "The Way the dak service began, Times of India, 1990, p.3. 62. Farooquee, Op. cit., p.146.
63. Manucci, Niccolao. Storio Do Mogor, p.467 as quoted in Farooquee, Op. cit., p.142.
64. Baburnama II p. 553 as cited in Farooquee, Op. cit. p.147.

Besides this there were, in addition to the 'Mahajans' big companies of Muslim traders in large towns with branches in smaller towns. In Surat, Cambay, Ahmedabad, Kathiawar there were rich Bohra and Arab traders who had established their companies. In the later period of Mughal rule these houses were called Kothis. In these kothis, besides business, public money was also deposited. A receipt was given for the amount of money deposited and it was mentioned where it was to be cashed. The rules of receiving money were also mentioned in it. These kothis are called 'Pedhis' in Gujarati. Referring to the working of this practice the author of Kulasat-al-Tawarikh says *"The people of the country are so honest in their dealing that any known or unknown person can deposit lakhs of rupees with these Mahajans or Pedhis without any witness. These good natured people return the money when demanded, witout demur or hesitation. It is interesting to note that if any person due to the fear of being looted on the way cannot carry big sums in person, these well behaved people (Mahajans) take the money and keep in their custody. Then they give a slip of paper in Hindustani to their agents, who are spread in all parts of the country. That paper is called Hundi in this country. These honest agents, inspite of residing 200 miles away, pay up the amount without hesitation in cash, according to the letter which does not even bear a stamp and envelope. The wonder is that the hundi which is the slip of paper, can be sold to other person if desired. And the purchaser can draw the full amount written on it from the Mahajans. Still greater wonder is that on account of the insecurity of the way, goods, baggage and other things are deposited with them and these people send the property safely to the owner. This procedure is called "Bima" in this country."*[65]

We learn from Khafi Khan that the soldiers of Aurrangzeb's camp were supplied regularly with the "Akhbars", which were the private news-letters. They were semi-public and were read by a large circle of readers. They were widely read and publicly discussed. They were, in fact, in every sense newspapers i.e., public vehicles for the dissemination of news of the day.[66]

There was no general system for sending information open to all. However, it seems that there was some private system of sending information like correspondence of the travellers, traders, factors and occasional envoys particularly Europeans. They followed the same system as that of Mughals. A Pattamary ie, a foot messenger was generally employed for the purpose.[66a] Private post in Mughal India was indeed largely dependent on professional foot carriers called Pattamari (Pattamar,Patamar) on the western coast.[67] Merchants and Bankers (Sarrafs) needed to keep up correspondence with their agents or factors to transmit bills of exchange and advices and instructions. They also offered the facility of despatch of letters through couriers to others. As the East India Company's operation expanded, it began to employ its own couriers.[68]

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65. Riyad-i-Salatin (Calcutta ed.p.257), Khulasatut Tawarikh, Manuscript, Darul Musannifin, p.37 cited in Saiyed Alizafar Nadvi, "The postal system of Medieval in Hind-Pakistan", p.210.

66. "The Newspaper in Islamic Culture, Jan, 1928 p.122 cited in Masson, Dr. Usha, Means of Transport & Comns(1650-1750 AD) p.415. 66 (a). Ovinton, J.Ibid, p.149.

67. Henry Yale and A.C. Burnell, Hobson, Jobson, New Ed.William Crooke, London, 1903, p.687.

68. Ovington, J. A voyage to Surat 1869, p.149 quoted by Prof.Irfan Habib, in "Indian History congress proceedings", Amritsar, 1985, pp.244,247,248. Whenever the English at Surat were under a necessity of writing to

It was in the reign of Queen Elizabeth in England that a small party of merchants set out for the court of Emperor Akbar by overland route across Asia Minor. Consequent to this the East India Company was established in 1608 AD. In 1613 AD Captain William Hawkins succeeded in obtaining permission from the Emperor Jahangir to found a trading factory at Surat.[69] Within next four years factories were established at Agra, Ahmedabad and Broach. Surat was founded to be unsuitable as a trading factory. It was situated some way up the river Tapati, the merchant men had to anchor in an open road-stead known as Swally Hole, while the goods were transshipped. In 1664 AD and 1672 AD, Surat was sacked by Ṣhivaji and his Marathas. The English then shifted their quarters to Bombay, which the Portuguese had ceded to them in 1661 AD. At that time it was a mere fishing village.[70]

Early in the seventeenth century the English merchants began to realise the importance of founding a trading station at the mouth of Ganges, the great waterway which was then the chief means of communications for the rich and fertile province in Bengal, with its rice, indigo, saltpetra and silk. A factory was started in the village on the site of the present city of Calcutta in 1651 AD. A Fort which was erected there was named as "Fort William" after king William III. This was followed by establishment of factories at Patna and Kasimbazar. At the same time English Factories were springing up in various places on the East Coast. The company established settlements at Masulipatnam in 1611 AD and at Armagom of the Nellore District in 1628 AD. In 1629 AD on a piece of the coast, (north of the Portuguese settlemet of San Thome) rented by the Raja of Chandragiri, buildings for the accommodation of the merchants and a fort to protect them from attack were built and the latter was named as Fort Saint George, after the patron saint of England. This ultimately became the headquarters of the Company's settlements on the Coromandel.[71] With the expansion of trade and commerce, the demand for messengers and couriers increased.[72]

The East India Company first took some positive steps in 1688 AD to erect a post office for bringing all the letters and arranging their delivery at Bombay and Madras. An overland route for conveyance of letters between Madras and Bengal was established by the Governor at Fort St.George, Madras in 1712 AD. The English merchant and Zamindars of the East India Company established their first Post Office in Calcutta in 1727 AD.[73]

In the beginning of the eighteenth century it was no small difficulty for the British to send a letter more than a distance of 100 miles. The East India Company Army which originally consisted of armed guards to protect the trading posts of the company, emerged from the Anglo-French wars of the 1750s AD as a regular fighting force. From then onwards whenever the Army went to war, it employed its own 'Harkaras' (Mail runners) to keep in touch with the outside world either directly or through the nearest established mail line.[74] Officers and other influential individuals managed to send their letters through the same channels and friends and agents in post towns who arranged onward despatch through the company post, ships captains and other travellers.

Bengal, Madras or any other part of India, a person was sent on purpose upon the errand.

[69] Rawlinson, H.G., A short history of India, pp.244,245.

[70] Ibid, p.246.

[71] Ibid, pp.246,247, 248. Raychoudhary, S.C. ocial, Cultural and Economic History of India, p.3.

[72] Farooquee, Op. cit. pp.149,153, 160-63.

[73] Mohini Lal Mazumdar, The Imperial Post Offices of British India, pp.6, 223.

[74] Rawlinson, A short history of India, p.257.

The East India Company obtained the administrative control of Karnatic and the province known as Northern Circars in 1761 AD. Runners employed during 1748 AD to 1764 AD to carry letters, which in those days of isolation were few and far between; there were no roads but tracks through the jungles beset with tigers, which could only be kept off by lighted torches and the harsh notes of the drum. [75]

Up to 1765 AD the English had been no more than traders of produce, trading with military escorts at their back.[76] With the assumption of Diwani i.e. the fiscal administration of the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa handed over by the Emperor of Delhi, in 1765 AD, it became imperative on the part of the British East India Company to organise its own system of Daks. Apart from purely military and commercial considerations, the need for the communication of civil intelligence necessitated establishment of an efficient communication system. The maintenance of the permanent and efficient staff of runners along the Dak routes was ensured and the Zamindars were entrusted in 1765 AD with the responsibility for a regular supply of runners to carry the mails.[77]

In early 1766 AD a full fledged organisation of Dak within the Bengal Province and from Bengal to other presidency town of Madras was arranged by Robert Clive.[78] The Dak carried only official letters. Individuals and officers were directed to send their letters only to the Government house to make necessary arrangements for their despatch. The postmaster worked there at night and sealed the bags for each center. The next morning runners would start with these bags to different destinations. The British officers were allowed to send their letters along with the Government Dak without payment of postage.[79] In order to eradicate the miscarriage and loss of mails en route proper rules for the better regulation of packets containing letters to different British Indian settlements and factories there were also prescribed. By 1773 AD the Governor of Bengal Presidency assumed the supreme power of the Governor General of India over the other two presidencies of Madras and Bombay .[80]

The postal system established by Lord Clive was re-organised by Warren Hastings. The first Imperial post office commonly known as Calcutta General Post Office under a Postmaster-General was established on 31st March, 1774 AD. Mr. Redfern was appointed as Postmaster General at Calcutta. Through this the public were allowed to use the Company's dak organisation.[81] Under this arrangement Calcutta was connected by six routes, and there was no central control or co-ordination. The main route connecting Patna and Dacca with Calcutta was managed by the Persian translator. The commercial routes were managed by the individual factory. The salt agents maintained their own route. The Kasimbazar route was controlled by the English Resident. The Murshibad route was managed by the Nawab.[82] The Calcutta General Post Office having jurisdiction over the ceded and Dewani lands controlled the postal routes from Calcutta to Ganjam, Calcutta to Patna, Patna to Benaras and from Calcutta to Dacca as well as cross route to Dinajpur via Rajmahal in view of the military operation at Cooch Bihar.[83] In addition to these, Hastings tried to establish a trade route to Rangapur.[84] The main routes stated above were further divided into a number of capital and minor stages comprising a distance of 7 or 8 miles up to which a runner, accompanied by a drummer and lamp bearer for scaring away wild beasts, had to run both up and down to hand it over to the next man. Each capital stage was under `Munshi'(clerk) who was assisted by two "Ghuree Walles" or time keepers to check times.

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[75] I.G.J. Hamilton, An Outline of Postal History and Practice, p.132.

[76] Kaye, John William, The administration of the East India Company, pp.162, 163.

[77] Bengal Select Committee 5th November 1765 AD cited in Chaterji, Dr. Nandan Lal's article entitled," The beginning of the British Postal System in India" in Journal of Indian History, Vol. XXXIII, 1955 p.171.

[78] Home Department (Public) Proceedings, 24th March, 1766, p.350.

[79] Banerji, C.R. Early Postal Service in Calcutta, Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD), p.23.

[80] Calcutta Review Vol. 88-89, 1889 AD p.115. The Company's service following a precedent set in England over a hundred years earlier, was authorised to accept private correspondence.

[81] Banerji, C.R. "Early Postal Services in Calcutta", Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 a.d. to 1968 A.D), p.23. The staff of the General Post Office included one European Assistant (Deputy Postmaster), one native Assistant, two writers, seven sorters, one jamadar and fifteen peons. It was kept open from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. for delivery of letters and from 6 P.M. to 9 P.M. for receipt of letters.

In March 1778 AD mail arrangement between Chittagong and Dacca was taken over by the Postmaster General, Calcutta. According to this arrangement the mails between Chittagong and Dacca were sent every other day and they passed through Chittagong, Seetacoond, Fenny, Collinda, Chundergung, Luckipore, Pampore, Chandpore and Dacca.[85] The postage charges were, then, required to be paid in the shape of a copper ticket or token which entitled the sender of a letter to hand it over, with the ticket,for transmission to the addressee. The copper tickets were of a denomination of two annas and each ticket was valid for a distance of hundred miles (160 kilometers) per letter in respect of which the token had been handed over to the postal official. The authorities in different Presidencies and British settlements operated their services on the important strategic and commercial routes of the Presidency.[86]

The country around Madras had been obtained as a grant from the Nawab of Arcot in 1750 AD and partly in 1763 AD.[87] A portion of country known as "Northern Circars" which consisted of Masulipatnam Chicacole, Rajahmundry, Ellore and Kondapalli was granted to the British by the Mughal at the request of Lord Clive, in 1765 AD and in 1788 AD, Guntur, upon which the British had a post orbit was added to the East India Company's possessions. [88]

In Madras, a regular postal system on the lines of Bengal under which all letters except those on the public service should pay postage was adopted in 1785 AD. On 1st June 1786 AD the General Post Office at Madras came into existence and within a short time i.e. in the first part of 1787 AD arrangements were made for fortnightly services from Madras to Calcutta and Madras to Bombay. Thereafter Masulipatnam became the mail route point for weekly dawk between Madras and Calcutta. The mail route opened from Masulipatnam to Bombay took 12 days for Bombay, 14 days to Calcutta and 5 days for Madras on foot runner lines. The distance from Bombay to Calcutta and to Madras took about 26 and 17 days respectively.

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82. Home Department (Public) Consultation dated 7th July 1766, No.1(a). Minute of Warren Hastings dated 17th Jan,1774 AD quoted by Roy, Bimal Prasad, "A few facts about GPO", Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD) p.43.
83. Minute of Warren Hastings dtd. 17th Jan 1774 AD quoted by Roy, Bimal Prasad, ibid, p.43.
84. Seton Kar, Selection from Calcutta Gazette Vol.I quoted by Roy, Bimal Prasad, ibid. p.43.
85. Minutes of Warren Hastings dated 17th January 1774 AD, quoted by Roy, Bimal Prasad, ibid, p.43. D.R. Pande in article entitled "The mails - A glimpse into the past."- Dak Tar, November 1958, p.29.
86. Union Postale 10 of Oct. 1954, p. 98 A., and Hausburg, L.L.R.The Postage and Telegraphs Stamps of British India Pt.I, p.86. 87. Kaye, John William, The Administration of East India Company,p.206.
88. Mazumdar, M.L., The Imperial post offices of British India, p.184.

The Imperial and commercial interests of the East India Company necessitated creation of proper postal communication between the fortifications and residencies and Calcutta. In 1775 AD an over land route from Calcutta to Bombay similar to the Calcutta and Madras service was introduced.[89]

By the treaty of Salbai in 1782 AD the British at Bombay retained the Islands of Elephenta and Salsette. In 1784 AD, the territories occupied by the East India Company consisted of three isolated portions adjoining the three presidency towns of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. There was no proper and regular service during those days.[90] The General Post Office at Bombay was established in 1793 AD. The postage was continued to be charged on the basis of the distance of a letter's destination. Rates for inland letters depended both on distance and weight. The postal rates from Calcutta to some selected stations during 1795 AD are furnished in table.I.1.[91]

As a military necessity, during the Anglo-Maratha war when roads were unknown to the officers of the East India Company who had to undertake extensive tours in the country, the Dak Palkis (Palanquins) were introduced. Up to July 1783 AD the system was managed by John Harvey on contract basis and then it was transferred to Calcutta G.P.O. There were several resting places or bungalows on the road, the establishment of which consisted of a Bearer, Khidmatgar, Sweeper and a Chowkidar. Each bungalow contained two rooms, a verandah all round, two bath rooms, and the necessary furniture. In Bengal the runners employed to carry dak used to hand over the postal bags to the next group of runners after covering a distance of 8 miles. When the road lay through jungles or deserted tracks they were accompanied by he drummers to scare away the wild beasts. And at night one or two torch-bearers joined them.[94] (see Illustration 6 for Travelling by Night Dak).

The Madras Presidency took its complete shape of a province at the ruler of Mysore Tipu Sultan's fall at Srirangapattanam in 1799 AD.[95] The Karnatic or eastern portion of South India ruled by the Nawab of Arcot, as well as the principality of Tanjore, were placed under the British Rule.[96] In 1801 AD the whole tract between Ganges and Jumna, known as Doab, with Rohilkhand were obtained by purchase from the Nawab Vazir of Avadh. In 1815 AD the Pindaris were defeated in Central India. Bombay secured particularly all of its political territory at the close of the third Maratha war in 1818 AD. Rangoon in Burma was taken in 1824 AD and in 1826 AD the King of Burma ceded Assam, Arakan and Tenasserim.[97] Assam was annexed in 1826 AD and Bharatpur was taken in 1827 AD.[98] Most of the acquired areas being merged with Bengal, its Governor was elevated to a position of supremacy over Bombay, Madras and the rest of India.

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89. Banerji, Sudhir Kumar,'The Growth of Postal System in India,' Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD)p.63.
90. Banerji, C.R. `Early Postal service in Calcutta', Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD)p.23.
91. Geoffry Clarke, The post office in India and its story, pp.14,15.
94. Roy, Bimal Prasad, "A few facts about GPO" Calcutta GPO Cen (1868 AD to 1968 AD),p.47.
95. Kaye, John William, The Administration of East India Company, pp.207,214.
96. Kaye, John William,The Administration of East India Company, p.260., ibid, p.202.
97. Woodruff, The Men who ruled India, The guardians, p.119. 98. Dr. Cecil Merne Putnam Cross, The Development of Selfgovernment in India, 1858-1914 AD, pp.2-3.

In 1825 AD the Banghy (Parcel) post was established between Bombay and Poona with the increase of banghy parcels, a bullock cart mail service was introduced in 1830 AD between Poona and Panwell and then to Bombay by dawk boats, available also on hire for passengers. The monopoly of conveying letters by post, suppressing the private posts was established by Bombay General Post Office in March 1830 AD.[99]

In 1832 AD the postal line from Bombay to Surat was extended to Dessa, the routing point, connected by mail route to Malligram via Nasik, extended to Dhulai and Indore, for despatch of mails to upper India, west of Neemuch.[100] In 1833 AD the mails from Calcutta to Nagpur were carried by runners through the jungles and thence through the more populated area via Aurangabad to Poona and Bombay, the last stage was by mailcart from Poona to Panwell and thence by ferry to Bombay in 10 days. The route from Agra in Bengal presidency to Bombay was via Aurangabad and Poona. In March 1836 AD the mail route from Agra to Bombay was via Gwalior, Indore, the Sindwa Pass, Dhoolia and Nasik.

In Madras Presidency, the Government post was organised in 1808 AD for conveyance of private letters on payment. In 1833 AD the mail route between Madras and Bombay was via Cuddapah to Bellary and then to Bombay via Belgaum and Poona. The new route between Madras and Bellary was extended via Bijapur to Poona in December 1837 AD. The direct mail route between Madras and Bellary was opened without routing via Cuddapah in 1846 AD.[101]

In the lower provinces of Bengal a postal communication between each Police Thannah and the Sudder Station of the district was kept up by the Zamindars under the provisions of Regulation XX of 1817 AD. But these posts were not open to the native community, who were consequently obliged to send through more circuitous routes, even where a district postal communication existed.[102]

The indigenous dak agencies which were catering to the general needs of the public in some form or the other continued to exist and serve as before. In Bengal, the Nizamat dak system maintained mainly for the benefit of Nawab Nizam for conveyance of mails between Calcutta and Murshidabad and which was in existence from a date prior to the establishment of British Rule over Bengal continued thereafter also.[103] Authorised by the British East India Company, Mr.Bacon had started a mail service between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour towards the end of eigthteenth century. He arranged to carry dak by relays of horses changed at every eight miles. Another private postal service for Calcutta and its neighbourhood was introduced by M/s Rozarion Company w.e.f. June 2nd of the same year. The Company charged one anna for each Tola of a letter's weight. There were three deliveries.[104] In Bombay Presidency all private daks for the carriage of letters and newspapers were suppressed in 1830 AD by the Regulation.[105] The system of private dak was allowed by the Government till the passage of Post Office Act of 1837 AD. Following the change in the commercial character of the East India Company into a governing body with a centralised system of administration and legislation affected by the Charter Act of 1833 AD, the Company reserved for the first time in 1837 AD the right to the carriage of letters for hire in any part of its territories exclusively with the Company itself and empowered the Governor General in Council to grant licence to convey letters by dak on hire.[106]

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[99] Bombay Dock (1830 AD) Regulation I, cited in Mazumdar, ibid, p.7.

[100] Legal Papers of Act XV - XXXIV of 1854, p.17. CCPS No:109 of 1972 of IB Universal Postal Union, p.149 and Geoffry Clarke, the Post Office of India.

[101] Mazumdar, ibid, p.179.

[102] Report of Post Office Commissioners 1852, p.99.

[103] Banerji, C.R.'Early Postal Service in Calcutta,' Calcutta GPO Centenary.(1868 AD to 1968 AD), p.24. The transport of letters from Calcutta to Murshidabad took about 50 to 60 hours.

पुस्तकालय
गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय

Under the provisions of Act.XVII of 1837 AD Government of East India Company assumed the exclusive right to convey letters for hire in the territories of the East India Company. All post offices were issued with the elaborate polymetrical tables, which fixed the charges to be levied on the principal routes. The Act of 1837 AD caused a great deal of dissatisfaction owing to the abolition of many private and well organised services, which were not at once replaced, or else replaced very inefficiently by Government services. In these days there grew up a dual system of Posts namely; the Presidency Postal Organisation which operated only on important mail lines and the District Post was entirely local and controlled the services in the mofussil in each district. Originally the "District Post" was organised and controlled by the district officer or other local officials. Gradually steps were taken to knit together the scattered British Indian possessions and great military stations by Trunk roads. The most important postal line was that between Calcutta and Bombay and state of this was also deplorable. The whole of North Western province up to Peshawar and further extended up to Kabul, and the eastern region of Burma, Straits settlement of Malacca, Panang and Singapore were under the control of Postmaster General Bengal for maintaining the lines of communication with Calcutta till 1839 AD in which year the Bengal Presidency was bifurcated into two separate Presidencies, forming a new Presidency, North West Frontier known as Agra Presidency under a Postmaster General with his Headquarters at Agra G.P.O with area stretched from Agra district to Peshawar, while Bengal Presidency remained with the lower provinces of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam.[107] By the year 1847 AD or earlier the lines of Postal communication were extended up to Nagpur, Ghazipur, Mirzapur, Assam, Nepal, Straits settlements of Singapore etc., as well as the control over the seven routes namely; the Berhampur, Patna, Dacca, Kedegree, Madras, Bombay and Bankura.[108]

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The District lines and offices opened and maintained for police and other official purpose were of a very primitive character, the arrangements made being more local than general, and transmission of private letters by post was accorded as a privilege.[109] The District daks in the North Western Provinces were first made available for private correspondence in 1838 AD. In Bombay the institution was first regularly established in 1841 AD before which a daily communication was for the most part kept up in each Collectorate between the principal stations and towns in which the head district offices were located, though the accommodation was open to the public. In Madras the district daks, which had previously existed for the necessary transmission of the official

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[104] Samachar Darpan dtd. June 6, 1829 AD quoted in ibid, p.25.

[105] Calcutta Review, Vol.88-89, 1889 AD p.115.

[106] Act No.XVIII of 1837 Sections II, III & IV.

[107] Mazumdar, M.L., The Imperial post offices of British India, pp.42,180,181.

[108] Mazumdar, M.L. ibid, pp.181,182.

[109] Pros. of S.C. P.S.C., 1887, p.41.

correspondence between the collectors and magistrates, and all other subordinate offices were generally opened to the public in 1846 AD.

In Bengal Presidency, the District Post was made available to the public in 1850 AD.[110] The superintendence and management of the District Post office was entrusted to the officers and servants of company who were enumerated with a variety of other duties, considered by them, as one of a more close and personal application on their posts.

In Bombay prior to 1846 AD there was only one Receiving office at Byculla. In that year three others were opened, one at Colaba, one at Girgaum, and one at Mambadevey.[111] During 1850 AD there were 5 Receiving houses in Madras. They were Rayapattah, Vepery, Black Town, Triplicane and St.Thome.[112] Calcutta had six Receiving houses at a Park street, Machoa Bazar, Bara Bazar, Bhowanipore, Kidderpore and Baitak Khana in 1851 AD. There was no post office or receiving house on the right bank of the Hoogly and persons living at Howrah and other suburbs in the direction, had to send their servants across the river to post their letters.[113] All the letters had to be posted either at the General post office or at one of the six receiving houses.

During 1851 AD in Bengal, besides Calcutta G.P.O. and its Receiving Offices, there were 74 principal and 70 subordinate offices.[114] In the united (formally north west) provinces including the Punjab, there were 72 principal and 125 sub-ordinate offices.[115] During the said year the Madras Presidency had 130 post offices.[116] In Bombay presidency, the collector of Rathnagiree was ex-offico postmaster; and the civil surgeons of Aden and Sholapur, the Brigade majors at Mhow, Bhopawar, and Ellichpur, the staff officer at Kholapur, the pay master of Nizams troops at Aurangabad and the line adjutant at Bhuj, were also postmasters.[117] Postage collections were remitted weekly by subordinate officers. These weekly remittances were made on account, and the accounts of each office were settled at the end of every month. [118]

On the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Benaras the mails were conveyed by mail carts under contract at a speed of about 7 miles an hour. The chief mail cart lines were those of the United (formerly North West) Provinces including the Punjab, and these extended for 1067 miles, and were mostly under Superintendent of Mail Carts. The postal workshops at Aligarh had already acquired a reputation for making mail carts. In Madras presidency there were no mail cart lines. There were 8840 miles of lines all worked by runners.[119] The delivery of correspondence in the post offices under the management of the Presidency Postmasters was attended to by the delivery peons and for the delivery of mails in the District post, Thanedars were charged with the responsibility and were assisted by the police and village chawkidars.

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[110] Report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.100.
[111] Hamilton I.G.J. A. An outline of postal history and practice. p.165.
[112] Ibid, p.162. Banerji, C.R.,"Early postal service in Calcutta" - Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD). p.26.
[113] Hamilton, ibid, p.157.

[114] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp. Of these 74 principal, 22 were paid, but holding other offices, 7 were paid, but holding no other offices and 45 were ex-officio and unpaid. Of these postmasters holding other offices, 16 were Medical Officers, 4 Military officers, and 2 Harbour Masters. Of the unpaid postmasters, 34 were Collectors, officers incharge of districts, 4 Residents and political Agents, one a Medical officer, and 3 Private persons.

[115] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p. Of the 72 principal postmasters, 35 were paid, but holding offices, 21 were paid, but holding no other offices, and 16 were ex-officio, unpaid. Of the postmasters holding other offices 16 were Medical and 19 Military officers and of the unpaid postmasters, 12 were Collectors, and 3 Military officers.

[116] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p. The Resident of Travancore, the Magistrates and Collectors, South Arcot, Canara, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Ganjam, Guntur, Madura, Malbar, Masulipatnam, Rajahmundry, Salem, Tanjore, Tinnelvelly and Vizagapatnam, the Agent in Kurnool and the first Magistrate at Cochin were Mominabad and Hugolee. The Postmaster at Jaulnah was an officer of the line, and at Hyderabad and Trichinopoly officers of Invalids.

[117] Hamilton, ibid, pp.166, 167 and report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.57.
[118] Hamilton, ibid, p.168 and the Report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.49.
[119] Hamilton, ibid, and the Report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.51.

The post offices under the management of the Presidency Postmasters provided a speedy and comfortable means of conveyance also for natives and the poorer classes of Europeans by the Banghy vans, at the rate of one anna per mile. Under the agency of the post office, the baggage of merchandise of the natives was conveyed by the Bullock train of the Grant Trunk road and it had led to the establishment of private trains on several branch lines of road.[120] The Bullock trains were used for military purposes also. Provision of horses, palanquins and mail carts or tongas to travellers on state business was the responsibility of the post office. The horse carriages known as "Dawk Gari" carried letters and passengers. Travelling by Dak (post) meant travelling by horse drawn post carriage or mail carriage. Palanquin, push-pushes or small carts pushed and drawn by men were also used.[121] Heavy despatches were conveyed by Banghy post or parcel post which were carried by Banghy Bardar on his shoulder by means of a bamboo pole with strings attached at both ends. Half of the cost was colleced from the sender on its receipt at the post office and other half was collected from the addressee on its delivery. As routes were unsafe, no "Valuable" was accepted for despatch.[122]

The charges for the conveyance of letters were levied in cash payable in advance and varied according to weight and distance.[123] Postal rates from Calcutta to certain places prevalent in 1847-48 AD are given in table I.2. The distances noted there in are of postal routes used at that time. Each post office had a set of three polymetrical tables showing distances between the post office throughout India. The tables were compiled by the Customs and Post Office Committee in 1837 AD. Each letter brought to the post office had to be weighed and a reference made to these tables to determine the postage .[124] The confusion and cost then prevailing added with the illiteracy and ignorance of the public afforded to dishonest postal officials to overcharge the letters.

Letters were delivered twice at 10 A.M. and 3 P.M. at Calcutta. The morning delivery was only for letters in English. Preference was given to Europeans over Indians regarding the conveniences afforded for delivery of letters. Letters in Bengali and other Indian languages were never taken for the morning delivery. Europeans were allowed to take away their letters from the General post office even before the routine sorting and recording were completed. The usual practise was that the mail bags should be opened in the presence of the postmaster. If he failed to attend the office on every day, cart load of mail bags would be brought in his house with out any consideration for the distance. The members of the European community would flock in their anxiety to collect letters as early as possible. The number of leters in Indian languages was not negligible and in Calcutta, they exceeded the European letters by about one third during 1850 AD.[125]

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120. Home (Public) letters from court No.66 of 1855 p.247 and 100 of 1855 p.11.
121. Chatterji, Dr.Suniti Kumar, ibid, p.14.
122. Roy, Bimal Prasad, "A fact about GPO" - Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD) p.46.
123. L' Union Postale, 1931, p.313.
124. Banerji, C.R.'Early-Postal Service in Calcutta' - Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD), p.24.

In the East India Company's territories certain natives made a regular business of collecting letters from travellers and others and forwarded them by post in covers of their own to their agents at other places for delivery. In this way a large saving in postal charges was effected and the collector made a profit by charging a small sum for each letter. The practice was one of long outstanding which originated in the high rates of postal charges of the company's post and the absence of proper facilities for delivery of native correspondence especially in the interior districts.[126]

In mofussil areas, the private daks existed and catered to the needs of the general public.[127] The Company's network of post offices was mostly utilised by the natives in service far from homes, merchants and traders and the military officers.[128] The European community though less in number, well educated and in affluent circumstance derived more careful attention in disposal of their letters. The natives, on the other hand, upon the moderate assumption that there were 200 natives for every European in the British Indian territory and that not more than one percent of the former could read and write, still there must have been 20 natives for every European who could correspond by post without assitance. But the then existing postal rates for distant stations being far too high operated as a serious check on correspondence through company's post.[129]

The natives were, therefore, mostly attracted by the "Warria" or Receiving houses established by natives in many of the principal towns in the interior as they charged only one pie for a letter.[130] This rate being very low was within the means of the poorest man, and suited to the requirements of the natives, who generally corresponded little except on matters of business and then as briefly as possible. All the letters collected by these "Warria" or Receiving houses at Ahmedabad and Bombay were then made up in packets or despatched by the ordinary dak through the Company's post to the address of their several agents at Surat, Deesa, Baroda, Ajmer, Indore, Pallee and Calcutta etc. There were no private daks in Northern Provinces and daks existed in Rajputana.[131]

The poorer classes who left their homes at a distance and came to Calcutta in search of employment were unable to communicate with their families. It was only when several people from the same village happened to be at the same place that they wrote letters and then they clubbed together and put several letters under one cover, or write them on the same sheet. Certain big firms at Calcutta enclosed all letters for the upper provinces in a letter to their correspondence at Benaras by which means considerable amount of postage was saved.[132] Smaller dealers and traders less able to bear expense of the then rates of postage were at a handicap.

Moreover, since the promulgation of Post Office Act of 1837 AD greater expansion of British dominion has taken place in the sub continent. In 1842 AD fortifications of Ghazni and Kabul were destroyed and Afghanistan was taken and Sind was annexed to the British Empire in 1843 AD. After the death of Raja Ranjeet Singh in the Second Anglo-Sikh war, Punjab, the land between Sutlej and the mountains was annexed by Lord Dalhousie.[133] In December 1852 AD Pegu, or Lower Burma, was annexed and by this means the Burmese Government was shut off from the sea, and the

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125. Banerji, C.R.'Early Postal Service in Calcutta' - Calcutta GPO Centenary 1868 AD 1968 A.D. pp.26,27. The number of chargeable inland letters despatched in 1850 AD from all post offices under the Postmaster General Bengal, was 23,25,000 of which probably four - fifths, or 18,60,000 were written by Indians.

126. Finance & Commerce, Seperate Revenue, A.No.610 of April 1898, p.1.

127. Report of Post Office Commissioner, 1852, p.35. 128. Ibid, p.29.

129. Ibid, p.23. 130. Ibid, p.32.

131. Report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.29,32,33,35. These packets varied in weight from 1 to 10 tolhas and more and contained each from 10 to 80 letters more or less. It appears that on delivery, the agents of these Receiving houses collected a further charge of quarter of an anna on each letter irrespective of weight. There were many such daks in states bordering the Company's territories.

whole coastline down to the Malay Peninsula passed under British control.[134]

Lord Dalhousie annexed a large number of states in pursuance of what is known as the " Doctrine of Lapse", which means that, on the failure of natural heirs, the sovereignty of the "dependent" states, of those created by the British Government. are held on a subordinate tenure, lapsed to the paramount power, a position which, it was agreed, the British Government had acquired after the fall of Mughal Empire. The States that were absorbed in the British Empire according to the Doctrine of lapse were Satara in 1848 AD, Jaitpur and Sambalpur, in Baghat, a cis-sutlej hill state in 1850 AD Udaipur in 1852 AD Nagpur in 1853 AD and Jhansi in 1854 AD.[135] Thus by 1854 AD the British enjoyed unquestioned supremacy over the territory from the Indus to Brahmaputra and from Himalayas to the cape of Camerin.

Prompted by the invention, usefulness and practical applicability of the postage stamp, the British East India Company leaped further in its moves to govern its Indian possessions, more effectively.[136] Lord Dalhousie (1848 - 1856 AD), Governor General of India appointed a Post Office Commission with three Commissioners, one for each presidency, namely; Messrs Cecil Beadon for Bengal and North Western Provinces, Henry Forbes for Madras and William Courtney for Bombay to enquire into the question of reform and to examine the various proposals for centralisation of the Department, unification of all post offices and simplification of post office work for efficient administration and to suggest the remedies of making the post office more conducive to the convenience of the public. The range of the enquiries of the Post Office Commissioners embossed the whole of post office administration and their recommendations were extended to the entire reform of the existing system. In his minute submitted to the Court of Directors, East India Company, London, on the Commissioners report, Lord Dalhaousie advocated strongly the principle of uniformity of postage irrespective of distance. In his minute he further opined that" if it be injustice in England that the burden of postal charges including those of public correspondence of the state, should rest entirely on one class, and if the injustice has been recognised in many states of Europe and America, the injustice is not higher or less oppressive in India. If it were wise in England to remove every obstacle to free communication between man and man, to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge and to correct with all prudent speed, a sensible and admitted grievance, wisdom would dictate now the same liberality in legislation here.[137]

The Court of Directors signified their approval of the greater part of the measures recommended by the Post Office Commissioners and the Post Office Act, 1854 AD was promulgated to secure the co-operation of the postal officials of the several provinces and districts and to maintain the uniformity of practice in the post office.[138] The Post Office Act promulgated in 1854 AD was applicable in the territories under the Government or where the posts shall be established by the East India Company.[139]

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132. Ibid, pp.30.32. 133. Mazumdar, R.C. etc. An advanced history of India.pp.747,759,763.
134. Rawlinson, H.G.A short history of India, p.325. 135. Mazumdar, ibid. pp. 767, 768.
136. L'Union Postale 1877, p.101 and 1888, p.164. The invention of the postage stamp is attributed by some to one Mr. Von Velayer, who is said to have established a private postal service in the city of Paris in 1659 AD. Others again ascribe it to a lady of the French courty Madame de Longue ville and fix its date at about 1653 AD. Its practical application assumed larger proportion in England in the middle of January 1840 and Sir Rowland Hill, the celebrated postal reformer, formerly a school master was bestowed with the praise of "a benefactor of the people", for innovating and advocating the practical applicability of the postage stamps.

Akin to Indian cultural expansion of the ancient times, the history of expansion of the modern Indian postal system abroad had also been great. British India, comprising of itself and areas in its postal territory viz., the British Burma and Aden, was admitted in 1876 AD as a member of the General Postal Union (later known as the Universal Postal Union).[140] Straits settlements including the seaport town of Singapore, Penang and Malacca were under the Indian postal administrative control up to 1867-68 AD.[141] Indian postal agencies and post offices established at several places in the Persian Gulf chiefly at Aden, Baghdad, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Bussorah, Linga and Muscat and the post offices of British Burma were under the control of the Indian Postal administration till they were either closed down or separated by 1923 AD and 1937 AD respectively.[142] As a result of the partition of India in 1947 AD the territories carved out of it as Pakistan also came to be ceded from the administrative control of Indian Post Office.[143] The statistics and other data referred to in this study relates to all these provinces also as they could not be separated at this stage from those pertaining to that portion of land known as India in 1995 AD with which this study concludes and is concentrated upon. Keeping in view the various aspects of the postal system in the present study, the Telegraphs though an important means of communication have not been included.

The Indian post office, as an institution for effecting transports in 1876 AD itself, more nearly approached some of the administrations of Europe (as for instance those of Germany, Switzerland etc.) in the extent of its business, then does the office of any other country beyond the boundaries of Europe.[144]

The "British Indian Overland Mail" was considered as the grandest postal service of modern times on account of its great importance to the trade and intercourse of the countries intersected.[145] In character, it was in fact an international postal service. While traversing it touched four of the great divisions of the world starting from London touching Alexandria and Suez to India and therefrom to Australia. It carried the large and constantly increased mails with extra-ordinary rapidity and punctuality.[146] (see Map2).

The contingent of civilian postal employees used to be drafted to follow the Armed forces during their expeditions. Such contingents have followed the Army for the first time in 1856 AD and continued to do so till 1941 AD under mobilisation and technical control of civilian Director General of Posts and Telegraphs. The contingents had been drafted to serve the Indian Field Forces in Egypt and Sudan in 1882 AD and 1885 AD respectively, and had also accompanied the Chin-Cushaf Expedition and China Field Force in 1889 AD and 1901 AD respectively. Indian Army Post Office has a glorious, colourful and interesting past. Some interesting accounts of its performance have come into light.[147]

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137. Home (Public) Consultation No.9 of 15th April, 1850 AD p.6 and House of Commons Proceedings No.87 of 1852 AD p.3. Minute (dtd. December 30, 1851 AD) of Marquis of Dalhousie, p.3.

138. Pros. of S.C., P.S.C., 1887. p.41.

139. Legislative Papers of Act XV, XXXIV of 1854 AD p.147.

140. L' Union Postale, 1876, p.76.

141. Annual Repeort. PO, 1867-68, p.7.

142. Annual Report, P.O., 1922-23, p.3. The British Indian Post Offices situated in Persian territory and the Persian Gulf viz., Bunder Abbas and Bushire, Jask, Chahbar, Henjam and Linga were closed on 12th April 1923 and 13th April 1923 respectively. A.R.P.O. 1914-15, p.2. The British Indian post offices maintained at Baghadad since 1868 AD was closed on Ist Oct. 1914 AD In 1914 AD after the break of war with Turkey, however, the Indian Post Office was again opened at Busra Fao and Kuwait.

143. A.R.P.O. 1937-38, p.1. the Posts and Telegraphs arrangements in Burma were organised under a Director General under the control of the Government of Burma while the postal arrangements of Aden have been taken over by the Colonial Office.

144. L' Union Postale, 1876, p.99.

145. L'Union Postale, 1883, p.25.

The native princely states had the postal organisations of their own and letters and other articles delivered by these organisations find no place in the Imperial Postal Department.[148] While postal conventions for exchange of correspondence, parcels and money orders etc. were ratified with certain native states, a number of them were amalgamated with the Imperial post office for the purpose of postal unity. Their Final integration and absorption with the Postal Department, however, completed on 1st of April, 1950 AD. [149] Some interesting accounts of its performance have also come into light.[150]

Thus from Vedic to Medieval period, communication lsystem evolved and known by various names and suited to their needs was utilised by different monarchs, elite and merchantile communities. It is in the early modern period that the postal communications became accessible to the common man both in the British Indian territory and the India of Princely States.

These gradual processes of ratification of conventions with numerous princely states postal systems and their amalgamation resulted in transformation of India Post into a vast organisation capable of providing the postal services to the whole of India, the responsibility of which was claimed to itself under the postal reforms of 1854 A D.

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146. L'Union Postale, 1883, p.25 and 1886, p.77.

147. The works are as under:-
  (a) Lt. Col. H.A. Sams,"The Post Office of India in the Great War.
  (b) Brig. D.S. Virk, A.V.S.M.,"Indian Post Offices in the Second World War.
  (c) D.S.Virk, John.C.Hume, Dereklang, Gerald Sattin, "The Chinese Expeditionery Force I900-I923

148. A.R.P.O. 1881-82, p.6.

149. Parliamentary Debates, 14th March, 1950, p.830.

150. For details see:
(a) Nayeem, Dr. M.A., "History of Postal Administration in Hyderabad (Vol.I : 1296 AD to 1724 AD and Vo.II : 1724 AD to 1950 AD).
(b) Sinha, Dr. R.M., Dissertation on, "Nagpur in the 19th Century - Some Aspects Its Administrative System, 1818-54".
(c) Sastri, K.N.V., article entitled "The Disappearance of Mysore Postal System (Mysore), 1863 : Anche : Local Postal Service" in IHRC 24 (Feb. 1948), 106-109.
(d) Joshi, Dr. S.N., article entitled, "The Postal System under the Marathas 1761 to 1772" IHCP Gwalior 1952, 338-45.
(e) Zerrian Qulam's article entitled, "The Post Office in Sind, Its Early History", SHSJ 5: 4 February 1942, 233-6.
(f) Prof. V.K. Gupta, "A Hand Book on Gwalior Postal History and Stamps".
(g) Dr. N.S. Mooss. "The Travancore Anchal".

Chapter Two

CONSTITUTIONAL GROWTH OF INDIA POST

There are few administrative reforms having an attractive history as the Constitutional growth of India Post. The expansion of the British East India Company as a territorial power on the Indian sub-continent was almost complete by 1854 AD and it had acquired a position of paramount power on the Indian sub-continent.[1] The East India Company's possessions or the "British India" were divided into provinces of varying sizes and importance and various administrative districts; and the Prince's India of "Native States" varied in size. British India comprised of the three- fifths of India. Princely or native states, not being a part of British India, British Law or laws made by the British Government in India did not affect them. They had their own armies, governments, prime ministers, law courts, and police; some had their own customs, railway, coinage and postage.[2]

There existed several private dak agencies within the territories of the British East India Company, besides its own system represented by two levels of management viz., the Imperial post under the control of different Presidency Postmasters and the District Posts under the control of local governments. To achieve co-ordination between postal organisations under the three Presidency Postmasters and the several Districts Posts, the Post Office Act, 1854 AD was promulgated and brought into operation on the 1st October,1854 AD.[3]

Legislative Enactments Governing The Post Office

The Post Office, in addition to its primary job of conveyance of correspondence, had undertaken numerous other postal and non-postal functions. The latter were governed by the provisions of enactments other than the Post Office Act. The Post Office Act of 1854 AD was the fore-runner and major enactment promulgated to govern the functions of the Post Office.

The Post Office Act

The enactment of Post Office Act, 1854 (Act XVII dated 12th August 1854 AD) was significant in two aspects.[4] First it heralded the introduction of postage stamps on All-India basis and secondly, it established a total monopoly of the Government with regard to management of the post office and the exclusion of private competition from conveyance of letters, the postal privilege as it was called.[5]

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[1] H.C. No.245 of 1856, Minutes of Dalhousie, pp.4-11. Bengal Past and Present, XXII (S.Nos.43-44) of Jan-June 1921, p.160. The only foreign European settlement which possessed its own Post Office was Goa, the communication in which province, as also with the British East India Co's Post Office were conducted at the cost of Portuguese State. At other Foreign settlements Pondichery, Daman, Carical, Tran Quebar and Chandernagar the Post Office Department was conducted by the East India Co's government; while for the petty settlement of Yanam in the Northern Circars and Mahe on the Malabar coast letters were received and delivered at the said Co's nearest Post Office, Ingeram and Tellicherry respectively.

[2] Gunther, John, Inside Asia, p.463.

[3] Legislative papers of Act XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.157 and A.R.P.O. 1855-56, p.1.

With the enactment of Post Office Act (Act XVII) of 1854 AD, the Act No. XVII of 1837 AD as amended by the Acts No. XX of 1838 AD and XVII of 1839 AD came to be repealed.[6] The repeal of Act XVII of 1837 AD as amended meant the complete abolition of all licences granted under the said Act to private person or persons to convey letters by post for hire from place to place within the territory of British East India Company.

The introduction of Post Office Act 1854 AD was not smooth. A number of inhabitants of Gujarat had opposed its introduction by calling it a suppressive Act. They had apprehended that it would take away from the people the right to send their private messages through the agency they liked besides tending to impose higher minimum postage rates and that the uniform minimum rates of postage proposed would affect the poorer classes as they would be required to pay six times more than the amount of one pie charged by the private dak agencies. They had also alleged in the petition addressed to the Governor General of India that the Company's postal system was not having at its command adequate machinery to effect proper delivery of private correspondence in both towns and mofussil areas when compared with the well-knit establishment of the private dak agencies. Finally they had pointed out that as per the Charter executed between Her Majesty the Queen of England and the British East India Company, no Regulation could be enacted without the consent of the people of the country in which it was to be exercised and that, therefore, the Act should not be brought into force.[7]

The Department took care to postpone the re-organisation of the Post Office Establishment recommended by the Postal Commissioners contemplated under the Post Office Act.[8] The change, in the practice of Department was thus inaugurated under the guidance of the officials in whom the native public had been accustomed to repose confidence.[9]

The Post Office Act, 1854 AD adopted "for the management of the Post Office, for the regulations of the duties of postage and for the punishment of offences against the Post Office" contained the following important provisions:-

(a) The postage rates were fixed for the conveyance of letters irrespective of distance. [10]

(b) The postage on indigenous newspapers was fixed to be twice the amount leviable on imported produce. [11]

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4. A.R.P.O. 1855-56, p.1. 5. Leg. Papers of Act XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.147.

6. Leg. Papers of Act XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.17.

7. Legsilative Papers of Act XV-XXXIV of 1854, pp.101,180. The petition dated 14th September 1853 AD was signed by about 1048 Ryots of Surat.

8. ARPO, 1855-56, p.1. The re-organisation was commenced on the 13th March 1855 AD and completed by 1st December of the said year. 9. ARPO, 1855-56 AD, p.1. 10. Legislative Papers of Act, XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.150.

11. Ibid, pp.150 & 73. Mr. J.R.B. Bennett, Deputy Postmaster General, Incharge Calcutta GPO in his letter addressed to the Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal objected to this differential treatment calling the variance to be against all recognised principles of legislation and depreciated the measure as one calculated to depress and paralise the local intelligence and enterprise.

(c) Inland banghy postage was to continue to be charged by weight and distance according to a polymetrical table of distances.[12]

(d) The powers to appoint, or authorise the local governments to appoint the postal officials were to rest with the Governor General of India in Council.[13]

(e) It was made lawful for the Governor in Council to frame rules for the conduction of the Post Office not in consistent with the Act.[14]

(f) The powers to frame rules for the management of all or any Zemindaree, Thannah or other District Daks were vested with Governor General in Council.[15]

In other words, under this Act the whole system was placed under an uniform administrative footing with one Director General of Post Offices and the stamp lables were substituted in lieu of cash, in payment of postage.[16] The unpopular part of the new arrangement was the discontinuance of granting receipts for the letters at the time of posting.[17]

The introduction of Indian Penal Code (Act XLV of 1860) rendered several penal sections of the Post Office Act XVII of 1854 AD superfluous. A new Act to amend the law for management of the Post Office, for the regulation of the duties of postage, and for the punishment of offences against the Post Office was enacted in 1866 AD. The principal modifications introduced by the Post Office Act XIV of 1866 AD were as follows :

(a) The variance in taxing the local and imported newspapers was eliminated.[18]

(b) Authorised the Governor General in Council (not possessed under the law then existed to declare in what cases registration shall be compulsory, and to direct the levy of double registration fee on delivery in cases of default of payment.[19]

(c) The previously existed restriction as to the class of articles which might be sent by book-post were omitted, in other words, a service more appropriately called "packet post" embracing packets (open at both ends) which might contain books or any other articles not being manuscript letters or dangerous substances was introduced.[20]

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12. Legislative Papers of Act, XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.151. 13. ibid, pp.147-49. 14. ibid, p.169.
15. ibid, p.169.
16. Sir, Norman Chaster, The English Administrative System (1780 AD to 1870 AD). In 1830s the British Post Office came under strong criticism from inside and outside of the Parliament and caused the British Treasury take action in 1837 AD to enact 1 Vict. C.32 repealing and amending 128 Acts concerning the Post Office and 3 years later passing a penny postage Act (3 and 4 Vict. C.96) introducing uniform postage rates a measure adopted in India after 14 years of its trial in Great Britain.
17. Public Dept. Pro. No.115 of 1858 reproduced in the ARPO 1856-57/57-58, p.i.
18. Legislative Dept. Act I.XVII of 1866, pp.921, 923, 924,937.

19. Ibid, p.922. This was a measure introduced in the British Post Office in 1862 AD. The object of which was explained by Her Majesty's Postmaster General to be "to put a stop to the frequent loss of letters containing coin forwarded through the post without the security of registration and to remove from the officers of Post Office the temptation to dishonesty offered by the passage of such letters.
20. Legislative Dept. Act I-XVII of 1866, p.921 and ARPO 1866-67, pp.2,6.

The Post Office Act XIV of 1866 AD was amended by additions of three sections in the years 1882 AD, 1895 AD and 1896 AD consecutively.[21]

The modern postal administration had quite out grown its provisions. Various schemes which were introduced since the enactment of Act XIV of 1866 AD such as postal insurance, value payable and money order systems had remained outside the purview of the Post Office Act.[22] "To consolidate and amend the law relating to the Post Office of India," Act VI of 1898 AD was passed.[23] The Post Office Act of 1898 AD repealed the Post Office Act of 1866 AD as amended and certain other Acts amending and extending the same.[24]

The material alterations and additions in the new Act were :

(a) Registration of newspapers with the Post Office was made compulsory to have the benefit of concessional rates of postage.[25]

(b) Prohibition was imposed on transmission by post of indecent, obscene, seditious or grossly offensive matter and the officers of the Post Office were empowered to deal with postal articles posted in contravention of these provisions.[26]

(c) On the analogy of the Indian Telegraph Act 1855 AD the Government was empowered to order in certain cases the interception of postal articles.[27]

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[21] Act No.III of 1882, p.1, Act III of 1895, p.5 and Act XVI of 1896, p.1. In 1882 AD, section 60-A, was added by Act III of 1882 AD authorising any officer of the Post Office empowered in this behalf by the Governor General in Council, to search for newspapers regarding which a notification has been published under the Sea Customs Act. In 1895 AD, section 66 was added by Act III of that year, providing powers, in accordance with general policy of the Universal Postal Union, Switzerland, for dealing with fictitious previously used postage stamps of other countries found on letters or other articles received from abroad; and in 1896 AD a further section was added by Act XVI of 1896 AD, authorising the recovery of customs duty, when paid in advance by the Post Office, in the same manner as postage under the Act.

[22] Acts VI-XIII of 1898, p.l.

[23] Act VI of 1898, p.1. The Act VI of 1898 AD has not been surpassed and is still in force.

[24] Acts VI to XIII of 1898, p.22. Acts repealed by the Indian Post Office Act (Act VI) of 1898 AD are as follows:-

(a) Act XIV of 1866. The whole of Indian Post Office Act,1866.
(b) Act III of 1882. The Seditious Publications Act, 1882 (so much as was unrepealed).
(c) Act III of 1895. The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1895, Sect. 7.
(d) Act XVI of 1896 - The Indian Post Office Act (1866) Amendment Act 1896. The whole.
(e) Act XIV of the Indian Short Titles Act, 1897 (so much as relates to Act XVI of 1896).

[25] Acts VI to XIII of 1898, p.1.

[26] Acts VI to XIII of 1898, p.2. The British Indian Association and some of the other Associations having been consulted opposed to Sections 20 & 23 of the Act arguing that these sections would interfere with legitimate discussion of public measures and with the freedom of the Press in India. The Lieutenant Governor, Bengal felt that these provisions were only a reproduction in substance what had been the law in England and in the United States of America and considered them to be suitable to the conditions prevailing in India. The inhabitants of Madras and public of Calcutta organised public meetings and objected to these measures and sent memorandums addressed to the Government of India Legislative Department appealing for repeal of these sections.

(d) The Government and officers of the Post Office were exempted from the liability in respect of delay etc., in the payment of money orders.[28]

(e) The opening of a letter by an officer of the Post Office contrary to his duty or the wilful dealing of a letter was then made punishable.[29]

(f) Mail runners withdrawing from the duty without permission or without having given one month's notice in writing, made liable for punishment with imprisonment which might extend to one month or with fine, or both.[30]

(g) A higher penalty was provided for sending dangerous and injurious substances by post than the corresponding section in the Post Office Act, 1866 AD.[31]

(h) For the protection of letter boxes and their contents and to prevent the disfiguring of post offices and letter boxes, new penalties were provided.[32]

(i) A new provision was introduced making the authority of the proper postal officials necessary to the institution of prosecutions for offences under the Act.[33]

(j) The actual working of the system was made to depend much upon executive rules having the force dof law.[34]

(k) The Director General was authorised by the Governor General in Council to exercise any of the powers conferred upon the Governor General in Council by this Act other than the powers to make rules.[35]

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27. Act. VI of 1898, Section 26, and Acts VI-XIII of 1898, p.2. Babu Gouree Sanker Ray, Hony Secretary, Orissa Association in his letter addressed to the Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal (General Department) advocated that the adoption overlooks the analogy between a telegraph message and a postal communication and argued that the interception of a letter or other closed postal communication implies an encroachment of private rights.

28. Act VI to XIII of 1898. Statement of Objections etc. p.2 and Section 48 of the Act. This clause was in accordance with the English law and the then existing rules on the subject.

29. Ibid, p.2 and Section 53 of the Act. The clause was in accordance with the English law.

30. Acts VI-XIII of 1898, p.2 & Sec.50. Mr. F.R.S. Collier, Officiating Commissioner of the Chittagong Division felt that the clause might work as a hardship to the mail runners who were generally illiterate men and also not very well paid. The shortage of manpower due to the great famine of 1898 AD and the epidemics which took heavy toll of human life appear to be the reasons behind the introduction of this Section.

31. Ibid, p.2 and Sec. 61 of the Post Office Act. The provisions of English law had been followed.

32. Ibid. Statement of objections etc., p.3, and Section 62 & 63 of the Act. The clauses were taken from the English Post Office Protection Act.

33. Ibid, p.3 and Section 69 of the Act.

34. Ibid, p.21 and Section 74 of the Act. All Rules made by the Governor General in Council under this Act were to have effect as if enacted by this Act.

35. Ibid, p 21, Section 75 of the Act.

In summary it may be adduced that the Indian Post Office Act 1898 AD was to a large extent an Act reserving to Government the power of dealing by rule with numerous questions of postal practice and procedure affecting the public. The knowledge of English Postal Legislation was utilised with much advantage in framing some new stringent penalties.

The Act of 1898 AD is in substance the law of today. Certain features were added by the subsequent amendments. The main features affecting the Indian Post Office Act of 1898 AD by the additions and amendments are as follows :

(a) In 1912 AD, with the intent of stopping circulation by post of the European, Central Asian and native publications containing revolutionary writings and propaganda, an Act further to amend the Indian Post Office Act 1898 AD was brought into force.[36] Under the provisions of Sections 23(3) of the Act of 1898 AD, the Postmaster General constituted the authority which could decide whether an article was or was not indecent or obscene or whether the works written there on were or were not seditious. To simplify the procedure and to empower the postal authorities adequately for the detention and disposal of such articles in the course of transmission by post a provision was substituted in 1912 AD enabling the Governor General in Council to make rules in this respect.[37] In the case of letters and parcels section 26(1) of the Act was amended authorising the Government or an officer there of (political officer) to direct the interception of such articles in special cases.[38] In other words to check such articles addressed to certain natives implicated in the revolutionary conspiracy, the amendment was sanctified under the terminology viz., "on the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of public safety and tranquility etc."[39] At the same time certain obscurities in the Act were removed and such minor defects were remedied.[40] The Governor General in Council was empowered to regulate covers, forms, dimensions, maximum weights and enclosures and the use of postal articles other than letters for making communication.[41]

(b) On amalgamation of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in 1914 AD, the expression, "Director General of the Post Office of India" was substituted to mean, "Director General of Posts and Telegraphs."[42]

(c) Under the Indian Post Office (Amendment) Act 1921 AD, the Governor General in Council was authorised to empower by general or special order, any officer of the Post Office, specified in such order to deliver any postal article received from beyond the limits of British India and suspected to contain any thing liable to duty, to such specified customs authority and that such customs authority should deal with such article in accordance with the provisions of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 etc.[43]

(d) With the introduction of Stamping machines for the pre-payment of postage or other sums chargeable under the Act in respect of postal articles by preparing the value denoted by the impressions of stamping machines, Indian Post Office (Amendment) Act 1924 AD was promulgated to deem such denotion likewise to be a stamp issued by Government for the purpose of revenue, within the meaning of Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860 AD).[44]

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[36] Act III of 1st March 1912 AD and Commerce & Industry, Post Office File No.2/13 of February 1918 (No.25) and File No.1-2 of June 1919 AD, pp.23.

[37] Commerce & Industry A. Proc. 5 to 9 (File No.87) of September 1911, p.7 and Sections 1 to 6 of the Act No.III of 1912 AD.

[38] Act III of 1912, Section 6.

[39] Public Works Department, Post Office; File Nos-9-10 of Nov. 1921 (No.x).

[40] Act No.III of 1912 AD, Sections 7 & 8.

[41] Act No.III of 1912 AD, Sections 2(c) and 7(4).

[42] Indian Post Office and Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 1914 (14 of 1914 AD, (Section 3(i)).

[43] Act XV of 1921, p.1, Section 24 A was inserted in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 AD.

(e) To centralise and vest in the Governor General in Council, the control over certain operations relating to dangerous drugs and to increase and render uniform through-out British India the penalties for offences relating to such operation, Section 25 of the Indian Post Office, 1898 AD was amended by introduction of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930 AD.[45] Under section 45 of Indian Post Office Act, 1898 AD, the Central Government was authorised to issue Postal orders only up to Rs.10. Section 19-A was inserted in 1958 AD prohibiting transmission by post of unauthorised tickets, proposals etc. ie., the lotteries not organised or authorised by the government. In 1970-71 AD finding this limit to be very low, section 45 was amended doing away with the limit and authorising the Central Government to make rules for fixing the maximum denomination of the Indian Postal Orders.

The Indian Post Office Act which provides the statutory foundations for the Post Offices in India having become almost 100 years old and the comprehensive changes in the International postal system and the economic scenario of the country needed to be reflected in the Act. The Post Office Act Review Committee headed by Sri Gurucharan Singh, a retired Member of the Postal Service Board recommended in 1992-93 AD necessary changes in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 AD. They are under examination with the Postal Services Board.

The Inland postage rates on letters, letter-cards, postcards, book, pattern and sample packets, registered newspapers and parcels were appended in the first schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (VI of 1898 AD). The revision of these rates was carried out by amendment of the said schedule through the Finance Act from time to time.[46]

The important non-postal functions like the Post Office Savings Bank and Cash certificates' work and the issue of Broadcast Receiver Licences are governed by the provisions of Acts other than the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 AD. Such Acts governing the work of the Indian Post Office are the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873 AD, Post Office Cash Certificates Act, 1917 AD and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933 AD.

The Government Savings Bank Act, 1873 AD

The Post Office Savings Bank was established in 1882 AD and was avowedly founded on the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873 AD (Act V of 1873 AD).[47] The "District Savings Banks" under the management of the Treasury Department were abolished in 1886 AD and the Presidency Savings Banks were amalgamated with the Post Office Savings Banks in 1896 AD. Thereby no other Government Savings Bank remained in existence.

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44. Act XVI of 1924, Sec. 2 p.1, Sub-sections (2) & (3) were added to Section 17 of the Act 1898 AD.
45. Act II of 1930 AD, Section 40 and Schedule II, pp.19,21.
45 (a). Postal Manual Volume I, Part I, pp 11, 29 and 34. Inserted vide Act 7 of 1958 AD. Section 57 and 77 of the Post Office Act 1898 AD were repeated by Act 35 of 1950 AD and Act 48 of 1952 AD respectively.
46. Act XIV of 1953 AD. The Finance Act 1953 AD altered the postage rates of Book, pattern and sample packets and parcels. 47. Finance & Commerce, Separate Revenue, A. Proc. 1533-1533C of Dec. 1896, p.3.

Therefore, the Finance and Commerce Department which looked-after the work relating to the Post Office initiated a proposal to avail of the opportunity to repeal the Government Savings Bank Act of 1873 AD to introduce a chapter dealing with the Post Office Savings Bank in the new Post Office Act, the proposals for drafting of which were afoot in 1896 AD in order to replace the Post Office Act of 1866 AD. In the proposed change, the various difficulties that had arisen as to the construction and application of the Government Savings Bank Act, of 1873 AD were intended to be remedied and lacunas in various respects under which the Government was not sufficiently protected as regards the Post Office Savings Bank were proposed to be removed.[48] The reasons for dropping off of this proposal are, however, not forth-coming.

The matter again came up in 1935 AD. With the coming into operation of some of the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 AD the Communication Department under which the Post Office was placed, claimed Post Office Savings Bank as their subject while Finance Department claimed it as partially theirs. The Home Department considered that the criterion should be that the Department in which action would be initiated regarding a subject was the Department to which the subject belonged and they appeared to think that the Communication Department had the better title. This view was, however, challenged by the Finance Department because they held that although the Communication Department was responsible for the administration of the Postal Department yet the Post Office Savings Bank was maintained by the Postal Department on behalf of the Finance Department. Finally the administration of the Post Office Savings Bank was arranged to be under the Communication Department while the Financial policy was to be taken care of by the Finance Department.[49]

The Government Savings Bank Act 1873 AD was amended by section 2 of Act XVII of 1917 AD to increase the limit of Savings Bank deposits from "One thousand" to "three thousand rupees" which might be paid to the heirs of deceased depositors without the formality of obtaining probate, letters of administration, or succession certificates.[50]

The Post Office undertook the duty of issuing 5 Year Cash Certificates in 1917 AD. In order to restrict the transfer of Post Office 5 Year Cash Certificates and to provide for payment of certificates standing in the name of deceased persons, Act XVIII of 1917 AD was promulgated. Under the said Act, the prohibition was imposed on transfer of Post Office 5 Year Cash Certificates without the consent of the Postmaster General. For payment of deposits belonging to the estates of the deceased holders, the procedure laid down in the Government Savings Bank Act, 1873 AD were made to be followed and the provisions of Sections 4 to 9 of the said Act were made applicable accordingly as if the holders of such certificates were depositors in a Government Savings Bank. The sum due on such certificates were to be construed as a deposit in such a Bank. The amount which might be paid to the heirs of deceased depositors without the formality of obtaining probate etc., was raised from "three thousand rupees" to "five thousand rupees" in this case with effect from 1943 AD.[51]

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[48] Finance & Commerce, Separate Revenue, A. Proc. 1533-1533C of Dec. 1896, p.3.

[49] Finance Department, Finance Branch, F.No.17(33), F.1/39 of 1939 pp.1-2.

[50] Commerce and Industry, B.Nos. 6-7 of January 1918, p.1.

[51] Government Savings Bank (Amendment) Act, 1943 AD (2 of 1943 AD), Section 3. 52. ARPO 1925-26, p.27.

The Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933 AD

The issue of Broadcast Receiver Licences through Post Office was inaugurated in 1924 AD. The licences issued covered both the single receiving sets held by individuals and also included licences granted to several firms importing component parts and materials as well as complete sets for sale in India.[52] To regulate the possession and disposal of wireless apparatus by dealers, the telegraph authority the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs was made competent to issue Dealers possession licences under the Indian Wireless Telegraphs Act 1933 AD (Act XVII of 1933 AD). The Act required the production of suitable licence before purchase of a complete receiver.[53]

The licence fee for wireless sets collected by the Post Office after certain deductions for the services rendered was remitted to the All India Radio.[54]

The Indian Post Office Act, 1898 AD as amended from time to time and all rules and orders made there under and the provisions of other enactments enumerated above viz., the Government Savings Bank Act and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act which were in force in the former British Indian Provinces were adopted in the areas governed by the princely states also which in consequence of having accepted postal unity adopted them as their territorial law.[55] The Provisions of these enactments were further extended to all the former Princely states (part 'B' states) and to certain part 'C' states viz., Tripura, Vindhya Pradesh and Manipur with effect from 1st April 1950 AD and 15th April, 1950 AD respectively, thereby obliterating completely the identity of several of those princely states postal regulations and uniting the postal organisations of the whole of India.[56]

Achievement of Postal Unity in India

The Post Office Act of 1854 AD was aimed at bringing the postal unity within the British Indian territories. India in 1854 AD represented a picture of several District Post organisations within the said territories in addition to the postal organisations under the control of three Presidency Postmasters besides several postal organisations under the native states. There were, therefore, two tasks ahead of the postal administration to achieve postal unity in India. First, the gradual development of the District Posts to prepare them for eventual absorption in the Imperial Post and secondly the amalgamation of the postal organisations under the native princely states. Absorption of the District Post organisations, however, attracted its attention first.

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[53] Act XVII of 1933 dated 11th Sept., 1933 AD Section, 5 p.2, and ARPO 1934-35 AD, p.29.

[54] Parliament Debates of 20th February, 1951 AD, p.1590.

[55] Foreign & Politcal Department, Intl. A.58 of March 1919, p.58.

[56] Acts of Parliament, 1950. Act XXX of 15th April 1950, and Acts of Parliament 1952 AD p.235. With the introduction of Section 2 of the Repealing and Amending Act No.XLVIII of 1952, Section 77 of the Indian Post Office Act was repealed which meant the derogation from the affect of provisions of the East India Company Act, 1780 and any other enactment amending or extending the same.

Absorption of the District Post

The Imperial Post controlled all main routes and large offices, while the District Post was confined mostly to services within each, district. The District Post was designed to provide means of inter-communication between the principal, revenue, magisterial and police authorities of the headquarters' stations and their subordinates in the interior of the district. In many places till 1854 AD the District Daks were known by various names in different areas, as District Dak, Revenue Dak, Zamindari Dak, Tehsildari Dak or Thanadari and consisted mainly of letters written by officers in employment of the company.[57]

The postal reforms of 1854 AD opened the postal inter-communication between neighbouring districts and the introduction of cheap and uniform postage for communicating over longer distances under the new system induced the people of non-barbarous districts to resort to the post office to communicate with their friends and relations to any time without being compelled to wait until friends and acquaintance may be able to convey a letter or message.[58] Even among the illiterate and ignorant people the desire to correspond with their relations increased as soon as it was known that the desire could be easily or cheaply gratified. The development of the educational system, the foundation of which was laid in 1854 AD in course of time gave a stimulus to the postal traffic.[59]

Within a decade, the District Post formed an important auxiliary to the Imperial Post Office. It conveyed to and received from the Imperial Post a considerable amount of correspondence, originating or intended for delivery in the interior of districts. The facilities, however, imperfect which afforded to inhabitants of small towns and villages in the interior of communicating by post were often means of a correspondence which in time became sufficient to warrant extension of Imperial post lines and offices.

Prior to 1864 AD there was no administrative connection between the Imperial Post and the District Posts, the control of the latter resting entirely with the District authorities. The revision of the Judicial and Revenue establishments in many parts of India in 1862 AD forced attention to the necessity of placing the District Post on more satisfactory footing and assumption of management of District Post by the officers of the Postal Department was favoured on the ground that it constituted the most valuable channel for bringing the postal system to bear upon the rural population of the country.

Under the changes that were brought in 1864 AD the control of the District Post belonging to the local governments was allowed to continue but the local officers of the Imperial Post were introduced as the executives under the local governments or administrators. Thus while the distinction between the Imperial and District Posts was maintained, the advantage of bringing them under the management of one and the same set of officers was obtained.[60]

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[57] Foreign Department, Political Consultation No.28-29 of 9th May 1856, p.1.

[58] Home (Public) letters from Court 62 of 12th October 1853, p.140.

[59] House of Commons No.245 of 1856, Minutes of Dalhousie, 1856, p.14. The Educational despatch dated 19th July 1854 AD of the Court of Directors contained a scheme of education for all India. The main features of the plan were vernacular schools throughout the districts, Government colleges of a higher grade and a university in each of the three Presidencies.

[60] ARPO, 1864-65, pp.5-6 and ARPO 1875-76, p.8.

The management of District Post in North Western provinces was the first to be undertaken in 1864 AD by the officers of the Imperial Postal Department thus relieving the magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of a work generally disliked by them and for which often they had not the requisite means of time to attend.[61] The transfer of management of Bombay District Posts was commenced in 1865 AD.[62]

In 1867 AD the transfer of District post in Bengal and Madras was commenced.[63] In 1868 AD the amalgamation of the District post with the Imperial post in respect of management and control was planned to be extended in all the provinces of India.[64] It was to be, as already narrated, not an incorporation of the District post with Imperial post, but a mere transfer of the management of the former to the local officers of the Imperial post to act as far as the District post was concerned under the orders of the local Government.

The Imperial post for the first time assumed the management of District post arrangements in the Punjab and Oudh in 1871 AD.[65] The management of District Post throughout the British territory in India was placed under the officers of the Imperial Post by 1877-78 AD.[66] As numerous officers were exercising control or keeping accounts or statistics of District Posts' organisations and its working, the correct picture pertaining to their establishment figures could be arrived at by the Director General in 1879-80 AD only. He, however, never had any direct or recognised authority over the District post. The relationship had been always one of more or less delicacy and in some parts of the country it had taken long time to induce the local governments to use the official agency of the Imperial establishments.[67] The number of post offices etc. existed from time to time under the District Post are enumerated in table II.1 [68]

The District Post worked as a pioneer of the Imperial Post. Whenever the correspondence had been first developed by the District post, the Imperial Post stepped in and undertook the cost of the office, leaving the District Post funds free for extension else-where.

Year by year the Imperial Post advanced more and more in to the interior of the country. It took over and improved the old district post establishments by employing in it itinerary postmen who collected and delivered correspondence at outlying villages, and by opening of small post offices under the management of local residents. Such course was followed in

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61. ARPO 1866-67, pp.8-9. 62. ARPO 1877-78, p.11. 63. ARPO 1871-72, p.6.
64. Paragraph 14 of the Government Resolution of the 31st October 1868, No.3021, quoted in Finance Department, Expenditure, A No.1-4 of November 1870, p.1.
65. ARPO 1871-72 p.6 and ARPO 1872-73 p.10.65. ARPO 1877-78.p.11. 66. ARPO 1879-80, p.11.
67. Based on ARPOs.
68. ARPO 1881-82, p.11, ARPO 1872-73, p.9 and ARPO 1884-85 p.10. In Madras and Bombay the district post was entirely supported by the grants from the Imperial revenues, in the North Western Provinces, the Punjab, the Central Provinces and Oudh, the cost of the District Dak was defrayed from special cess supplemented by contributions from the Imperial revenue. In the lower provinces of Bengal, the liability of Zamindar to carry official correspondence was discharged by personal service upto the year 1862 AD. By Act VIII of that year, passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, the obligation was commuted into money payments, and that Act VIII of 1862 AD known as the Zamindari dak Act, and the rules framed under it, regulated funds for its maintenance throughout the territories of the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal. Under the said Act, no charges on account of delivery peons or rural messengers could be made against Zamindari dak funds. Every step of dak was burdened with added expenditure and the Department was thus offered with no inducement to takeover and improve the District post establishments in Bengal.

most part of India excepting in Bengal where the proceeds of the Zamindari dak cess could only be expended on runners' lines required for police and magisterial purposes.[69]

The number of Imperial post offices steadily increased with the transfer of a large number of District Post establishments to the Imperial post, on being found to be self supporting. It was `finally resolved in November 1903 AD to transfer all the District Post establishments to the Imperial Post. Zamindari dak establishments in Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Assam, all the District Post establishments in the United Provinces, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg and the North Western Provinces, the principal district post establishments in the Central provinces and the District Post establishments in Burma formerly paid from local funds were transferred to the Imperial Establishment.[70] The District Post establishments transferred during the period between 1st March 1904 AD to the 1st April 1906 AD comprised of 1886 post offices, 2824 postmen, 5208 letter boxes and 35802 miles length of mail lines.[71]

The main object in amalgamation and extension of the District Dak system had been to make it bear-upon the rural population of the country. The other problem posed by the Postal Administration in 1854 AD was the exchange of correspondence with the several native states' postal organisations. The introduction of reforms in 1854 AD and consequent problems, the question of taking over the management of District Post had kept engaged the Imperial Postal Administration and a serious thought for improvement of relations with the Princely state's postal organisations for exchange of correspondence attracted during the later half of the second decade following the introduction of postal reforms in 1854 AD.

The Princely States' Postal Organisations

The Princes' India contained several postal organisations in native states, the control of which was entirely independent of Imperial Postal system. The problem related to the exchange of correspondence with the postal systems in the native states attracted the attention of the Director General of Post Offices in 1870 AD. The Director General with a view to obviating the complications involved in each particular instance opined that the Imperial post office could not "work into its system any native posts or weave their system into its own and that the proper relations were to give them every facility as offshoots of the Imperial system."[72] At that stage the Government deemed it undesirable to take any action in the matter.

Relations with the Princely States' Postal Organisations

Princely India to put in a word was the two-fifths of India. The British controlled it as indisputably as they controlled British India, but in a different manner, through a series of complex treaties and the doctrine known as "paramountary". The Princes recognised the suzerainty of the British Crown, but in every thing except foreign affairs they considered themselves autonomous.

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[69] ARPO 1905-06 pp. 2,24, ARPO 1906-07, pp.1,47. [70] ARPO 1904-05, pp.12,33 and ARPO 1905-06, p.1.
[72] Foreign & Pol. Dept. File No.62. Reforms of 1928, p.20.

Most of the native powers had their own arrangements of receiving communications, some of which passed through portions of the Company's territories.[72a] An interesting account of an indigenous dak service of a princely state carrying fresh flowers to the celebrated temple of "Nathdwara" or "the Dwelling of God" during the year 1809 AD is known from the contemporary writings. There were five hundred men constantly ready for the service of the temple, paid from Udaipur the capital of the state, for the sole purpose of carrying fresh flowers which were offered every morning at sunrise upon the shrine of the deity.[72b] (See Illustration 5 for the Temple).

In some states newspapers were forbidden, and in some the people may be bought and sold like serfs. There were some good states also. The things the Maharajas were proudest of were not jewels, not their harems, but their salutes in guns because they were a symbol of sovereignty. The British Raj saluted them thus. When the chamber of princes met in Delhi, each prince got his salute on arrival at the railway station. The rule was that no salutes were fired on Sunday. Some princes waited in their royal trains all day Sunday, if they arrived that day, so that the salutes may be fired on Monday morning.[73] Of the 652 states 149 had guns. There were only five 21-gun states. They were Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir and Gwalior. There were six 19-gun states - Kalat, Indore, Bhopal, Kholapur, Travancore, and Udaipur. And there were twelve with 17 guns - Rewa, Cochin, Patiala, Bhawalpur, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bundi, Bikaner, Kotah, Bharatpur, Tonk and Kutch.[74] The general attitude of some of the native rulers who ruled around 1930s AD deserves mention.

The Maharaja of Alwar, His Highness Sewai Maharaj Shri Jey Singhji, who ruled the said state till 1938 AD was one of the extra ordinary human beings of his times. He could not bear that anyone should touch him. Once at dinner a lady, admiring a ruby on his finger, asked to inspect it. Promptly he took the ring off and gave it to her. She handed it back. He gave the ruby to the servant behind him, with the words, "Wash it".[75] He was a wonderful shot. This, however, did not assuage the feelings of native women, his subjects, when he took their living babies for bait at tiger shoots. He would say calmly that they should not worry, he was sure to get tiger before the tiger got the baby. Sometimes, to improve shooting, he would remove, tear up, eradicate whole villages, and let the people roam away to starve. After demise, his body was carried through the streets of his capital, his dead face haughty, dressed in his most blazing uniform, his jewels resplendent and with sunglasses to "protect" his eyes. And some of the Alwar citizenry lined the streets, watched the grisly procession, bowed to the ground as they had when the ruler passed in life, groaned and wept.[76]

Some Maharajas in Rajputana belonged to the "Suryavansi" (Solar) or " Chandravansi" (Lunar) branches of Rajputs; some derived from the Abbasid Caliphs of Baghdad; one, Jaisalmer, claimed descent literally from Lord Krishna, the Indian God. In one state the Chief Justice was also Chief Inspector of dancing girls.[77]

His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad was popularly reputed to be the richest man in the world. Despite his incredible wealth, the Nizam was afflicted with almost pathological tendencies to parsimony. His palace was shabby, his habits were frugal and

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72a. Report of the Postal Commissioners, 1852, p.35. 72b. Thomas Duer Broughton, Letters Written in Maharatta Camp During 1809, AD p.156. 73. Gunther, John. Inside Asia, p.464. 74. ibid, pp.468,469. 75. Ibid, p.465.
76. Ibid, pp.466,467. 77. Ibid, p.467.

he drove a 26 year old Rolls-Royce. It is narrated that he selects his own mangoes, haggling over the price, and that to save laundry bills he wears one ancient white suit, and rests in his bath while it was being patched or washed.[78]

The old Maharaja of Patiala had a prodigious harem, and a considerable part of his activity was the acquisition of young ladies to freshen it.[79]

Bhopal was also an interesting state. It had been governed for eighty years by a line of able Muslim women, four of them a unique occurrence in India - took to the throne in succession. Then in 1926 AD the reigning lady abdicated in favour of her son. The young ruler Nawab Sir Mohammed Hamidullah Khan was a conscientious and accessible ruler. Every day he walks alone down the palace avenue, slowly and any person may approach and address him. At the same time his consort, the Begum receives any Muslim women who wishes to talk to her. This being the brief narrative of the attitudes of the princes of India, the postal relations of princely states with British India are now discussed.

The relations of the Imperial post with Native States' posts were the reverse of satisfactory. In some places the delivery of correspondence, proceeding from the Imperial Post, was effected by a distributary agency independent of the Imperial Department, in other places this agency was subject to Imperial Post control, while some times, again both the description of distributing agencies were employed and there were some localities in state territories which were destitute of any postal organisation and where letters could not be delivered at all.[82] Restriction of correspondence was the natural consequence of this diversity or absence of system. While good postal exchanges had been provided with most countries of the civilised globe, letters could not be sent to many places situated in the territories of the princely states.[83] By 1854 AD the native states of Gwalior and Baroda and certain other states in Bombay had Imperial post offices established in their territories and assisted the Company's postal administration by way of constructing and maintaining the roads and bridges on postal routes.[84] Thereafter, as a matter of Imperial concern and in general interest of the country, Imperial post offices were opened in the territories of Hyderabad, the premier state of India and in other native states also.[85] Imperial letter boxes were also maintained generally on railway lines i.e., on important railway stations and railways passing through the native states.[86]

The necessity of establishing postal communication with Indian states and unwillingness of the Government to exercise any pressure in the matter led to resorting to a system of conventions which provided for a mutual exchange of correspondence. Arrangements were concluded for the first time for the exchange of correspondence between the Imperial post and post offices of Mysore, Indore and Hyderabad (Deccan) native states in 1872 AD, 1876 AD and 1882 AD respectively.[87] Under these arrangements any letter or newspaper or any

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78. Ibid, p.471. He was born in 1886 AD and is a slight, shy, strange and cultivated man. 79. ibid, p.477.
80. ibid, pp 479, 480. 81. Ibid, p.472. 82. Ibid, p.21. 83. ARPO 1874-75, p.11 and ARPO 1875-76 pp.1-2. Under a treaty the whole of the States of Europe, the USA and Egypt formed themselves into a General Postal Union (later known as Universal Postal Union) for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence and agreed to adopt low and uniform rate of postage for all correspondence despatched from one state to another. British India was admitted to the said union in 1876 AD. 84. Home (Public) Consultations, No.29 of 11 May 1855, p.1.
85. Foreign & Political File No.62.R of 1928, p.29. 86. Foreign Dept. Intl. A. 259-267 of July 1893, p.1.
87. Foreign & Pol. Deptt. File 62 R of 1928 p.20 and ARPO 1882- pp.2-3. The general terms of the arrange-

other postal article which had to pass from one administration to the other was taxed with double postage, and as the second rate of postage had to be collected on delivery, a system of accounting became necessary and this caused delay and inconvenience. These arrangements facilitated exchange of ordinary registered letters and parcels but did not provide for a money order exchange or any other facilities and neither administration recognised the postage stamp of the other.[88]

The demand for exchange of the recent postal arrangements like money order, insured and value payable systems with the places situated in the territories of the princely states necessitated the Government to ratify conventions for mutual exchange of these facilities. A convention was ratified with Patiala in 1884 AD for the exchange of correspondence, parcels, money orders and postal notes. Such conventions were also made in rapid succession with the Gwalior, Jind and Nabha in 1885 AD.[89] and with Chamba and Faridkote in 1886 AD.[90] Principal provisions of the conventions concluded with the said states were : [91]

(a) There should be mutual exchange of correspondence, parcel and money orders between the Imperial Post Offices and the Indian States' posts. This exchange including registered, insured and value payable articles was to be governed by the rules of the Indian Postal Guide as periodically published.

(b) Certain selected post offices in British India and in the Native States should be constituted as offices of exchange for insured and value payable articles and money orders and should be entrusted with the duty of preparing the accounts arising from the exchange.

(c) Indian postage stamps and stationery over printed with the name of Indian State should be used for the purpose of prepaying inland correspondence posted in the State.

(d) The Government of India should bear the cost of mails over the British territory and the Indian States should bear the cost of conveying mails within its units.

(e) The Imperial post office should establish no new post offices in the state territory without the permission of the Durbar, excepting at Railway Stations or within the British Cantonments, the Durbars undertaking the establishment of any post office or letter box required in State territory by the Imperial post office.

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ments were that the Durbars should deliver Imperial post office half of the postage due on such correspondence and realising what it pleased.

[88] Foreign, Internal A. 87-88 of Sept. 1903, p.6.

[89] Gupta, Prof. V.K. A hand book on Gwalior Postal History and stamps, pp.32,33,68,90,108,112,115,154. Until 1885 AD no regular post office for public existed in Gwalior state. Postal Service was maintained by the runners and horse-sawars for official correspondence. They use to accept private Dak also. Otherwise private messengers were used by the business community. In 1885 AD Gwalior opened 65 offices and by 1905 AD the number rose to 139. The first postcard of Gwalior state was issued in 1885 AD. Service stamps of Gwalior were issued in 1895 AD ten years after the issue of ordinary stamps. Overprints on Indian Postage stamps used by Gwalior were different from other conventions states in certain aspects namely, they contained the word 'Gwalior' in Hindi and English as overprint and in addition the postal stationery bear the 'Sun and two Serpants' which are arms of the state. First registered cover in Gwalior was issued in 1891 AD. First revenue of one anna was introduced in 1904 AD and was required on all the bills above Rs.20/- in value. Initially all postal stationary was printed as well as overprinted at Thomas De La Rue and Co., London. After 1927 AD all work was done at Nasik.

[90] Foreign & Pol. File 62.R of 1928, p.22.

[91] Foreign and Pol. Deptt. File No.62.R of 1928, pp.21,22,23 and ARPO 1883-84, p.3.

(f) The foreign correspondence posted in the state postage should be prepaid only by means of Imperial postage stamps not bearing the overprint, postage stamps with such overprint not being recognised for the purpose.

(g) Monthly accounts should be kept for the amounts due to the Imperial post office by the Indian State and vice versa upon the money order exchange.

The Policy of Postal Unity

The maintenance of independent postal organisation by numerous princely states with rates and regulations of their own was a difficulty with which India had to contend. The twenty years of desolatory discussions with the native state of Mysore resulted in the surrender of control of the entire postal arrangements of the state voluntarily in 1886 AD.[92] The inhabitants of the state of Mysore protested against extinction of the ancient institution of about 200 years old which was more suited to the general requirements of the public and considered to be cheaper than the systems in any part of the world. The Mysore 'Anche' was abolished at the end of 1888 AD.[93] The amalgamation came into effect from the beginning of 1889 AD. Prompted by the political and general considerations, the Imperial authorities entered into negotiations for amalgamation of the local post organisations of other native states into the Imperial postal system.

The policy of "Postal Unity" was officially declared in 1892 AD and the entire management of the post offices of states of Bamma and Nandgaon in the Central provinces, the native state of Pudakotta in the Madras presidency and Kashmir was taken over in 1894 AD.[94] The principle of postal unity was given effect to in opening some number of post offices in the Native States of Mewar, Marwara, Bharatpur and some other minor states.[95] The Posts of States of Bharatpur and Khainpur were amalgamated with the Imperial post office from 1st January 1897 AD and that of Banganapalle native state in Madras Presidency on 1st January. 1900 AD.[96] The Postal arrangements in the Native States of Jhallawar, Kotah and Dhar in Rajputana were amalgamated with the Imperial Post on Ist November 1900 AD, while that of Sirmoor State in Punjab on 1st April 1902 AD.[97]

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[92] Foreign Deptt. Internal A. 87-89 of 1889. p.9. and A 336-341 of May 1889, pp.2-3. The "Anche" or local post of Mysore was an ancient institution extension of which throughout the province was one of the earliest measures of the reign of Chikka Devaraj Wadeyar. There were 170 regular post offices and 253 village post offices in charge of local school teachers, and village accountants etc. on an allowance of Rs.1 to 3 per month for post office work. These offices were replaced by 340 Imperial post offices. Out of 1502 servants of all grades and in employ of the "Anche". 770 were thrown out of the job i.e., they comprised of 75 percent of the postmasters and clerical staff and above 50 percent of the delivery staff.

[93] Finance., Separate Revenue, A.710-715 of October 1888. p.341. Anche provided a post office in almost every village throughout the province. A letter was registered for half an anna, a receipt was given for the same, as well as was carried acknowledgement from the addressee. For the same process two annas and a half were to be paid to the Imperial Post. whilst a banghy parcel would be sent for half the fee charged by the Imperial Post. After the usual tapals (posts) had been despatched an express could be sent on the payment of one anna a mile, half of which went to the Government. the other half to the runners.

[94] Foreign Dept. Internal A. 113 of September 1908. p.8. [95] ARPO 1895-96. p. 2.

[96] ARPO 1896-97. p.1. ARPO 1899-90. p.2.

The postal arrangements of Bikaner and Alwar Native State in Rajputana were amalgamated on the 1st July, 1902 AD and 1st January. 1904 AD respectively.[98] A further step in the progress of postal unity was made by the amalgamation of the Holkar Postal system during 1907 AD. Thus the amalgamation of the posts of 635 states out of 652 native states was completed by 1908 AD. Out of 17 remaining states, two more states viz., Datia and Panna were amalgamated in 1921 AD and 1922 AD respectively, and the postal unity came to be established throughout greater part of India.[99] Of the remaining, fifteen Chattarpur in Central India and Udaipur and Shahpura in Rajputana did not use postage stamps and other states namely Hyderabad, Travancore, Cochin, Indore, Bhopal, Orchha in Central India; Bhor and Junagarh in Bombay Presidency; and Las Bela (Baluchisthan) had stamps of their own. Out of these fifteen which neither joined postal unity nor had a convention and the rest of the five states with which Imperial post office had a convention i.e. total twenty princely states postal organisations only Hyderabad, Gwalior, Jaipur, Patiala and Travancore were of much importance. These states seem to have regarded their right to maintain their own independent postal departments as an emblem of their sovereignty and did not agree to their total disappearance. The Nizam Government of Hyderabad was prepared to enter into a postal union on the basis of the Universal Postal Union, so that the correspondence bearing Imperial postage stamps could be delivered in Hyderabad territory without any additional charge and correspondence bearing the Nizam's postage stamps and emanating from Hyderabad territory could similarly be delivered within the British India without additional charge. The Imperial Government not agreeing to this, the existing system continued[100].

With the gradual advancement of the policy of "Postal Unity" certain native princes considered their rights and independence had been encroached upon. Kathiawar rulers cited as an instance of such encroachment, the deprivation of the states of revenues pertaining to the Posts and Telegraphs institutions existing in the territories. The matter was discussed in 1924 AD by the committee of ministers set up by the princes with the officials of the Government of India. As a result of that the committee recommended, interalia, extension

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[97] ARPO 1900-01, p.2 and 1901-02, p.2. The amalgamation of postal arrangements of Dhar resulted in opening of 17 new Imperial post offices and 288 miles of new Imperial mail lines.

[98] ARPO 1902-03, p.1 and ARPO 1903-04, p.1. The amalgamation of Bikaner Postal Organisation resulted in the opening of 8 new Imperial post offices and 245 miles of new Imperial mail lines.

[99] Ibid, p.8, ARPO 1894-95 and Foreign and Pol. File 62.R of 1928, p.32. Of these 17 native states Chamba, Gwalior, Jind, Nabha and Patiala were the 5 states with which the Imperial Post Office had a convention, the remaining 10 states had the postal arrangements of their own and were Chari Khari, Junagad, Kishangarh., Mewar, Shahputa, Tikaangarh or Orchha, Hyderabad, Gwalior, Jaipur, Cochin and Travancore.

[100] Foreign & Pol. 165 R/31 of 1931, p.1. Riazat Hussain in an article, "Postal services under Nizams Rule in Hyderabad". Dak Tar, December, 1975, pp.12-15. The embossed envelope, postcard and Registration envelope were first introduced in Hyderabad state in 1856 AD, 1879 AD and 1866 AD respectively. The Money Order and Banghy (parcel) systems were introduced in 1872 AD and 1873 AD respectively. In the same year Segha-e-lawarsi (Dead letter office) was instituted. In 1874 AD Hyderabad was connected by Railway to Bombay at Wadi junction from 1875 AD the Nizam's post was sent by trains and Railway Mail Service of the Nizams postal service was established. In the beginning Insurance was for government use only but from May 1907 AD it was open to the public. The Value Payable post system was introduced in 1914 AD which proved a boon to the merchants as well as to public. In 1923 AD the Savings Bank system was introduced which proved most popular with the public. The number of post offices rose from 150 in 1881 AD to 832 in 1936 AD respectively. ARPO 1950-51, pp.24-25, ARPO 1951-52, p.8, ARPO 1952-53, p.11 and ARPO 1953-54, p.20. Also see Parliamentary debates of 5th April 1994, p.1740. Hyderabad state postal system was the prime of the systems amalgamated. There were in all 1719 state post offices and 44 Union post offices in the said state prior to integration and 759 post offices were opened up to 1953-54 AD after the integration.

PLATE 3

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITCTURE

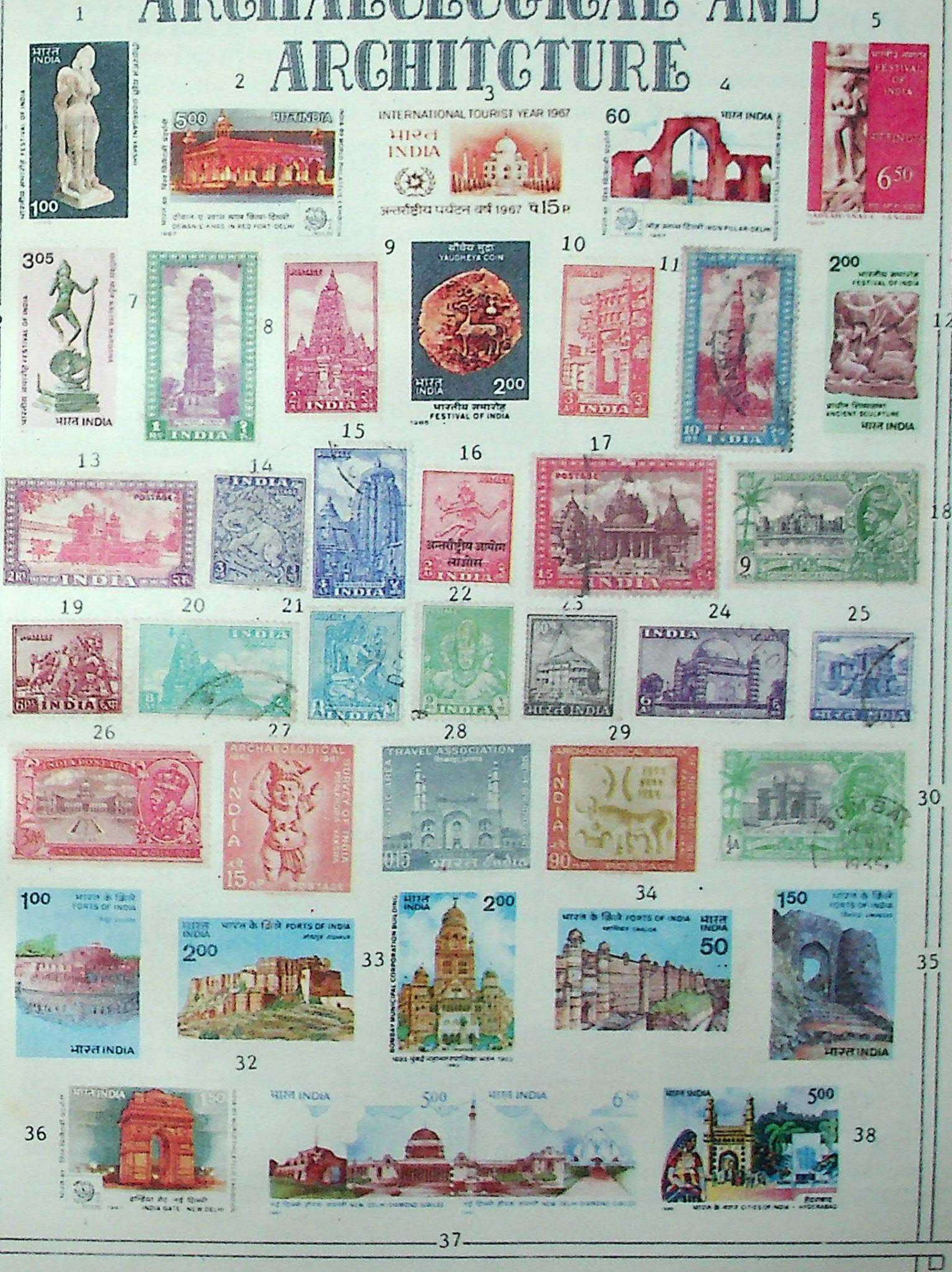
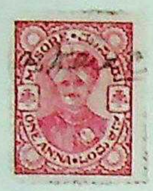

1
2
3
4
5
भारत INDIA
1.00
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
5.00
भारत INDIA
DEWAN-E-KHAS IN RED FORT DELHI
INTERNATIONAL TOURIST YEAR 1967
भारत INDIA
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पर्यटन वर्ष 1967 पे 15 P
60
भारत INDIA
IRON PILLAR DELHI
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
6.50
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
3.05
भारत INDIA
INDIA
यौधेय मुद्रा
YAUDHEYA COIN
भारत INDIA
2.00
भारतीय समारोह
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
INDIA
2.00
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
ANCIENT SCULPTURE
भारत INDIA
13
14
15
16
17
18
POSTAGE
INDIA
INDIA
INDIA
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आर्थिक
INDIA
POSTAGE
INDIA
9
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
INDIA
INDIA
INDIA
INDIA
भारत INDIA
INDIA
भारत INDIA
26
27
28
29
30
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INDIA
15
TRAVEL ASSOCIATION
0.15
INDIA
90
31
32
33
34
35
1.00
FORTS OF INDIA
भारत INDIA
भारत के किले FORTS OF INDIA
2.00
2.00
BOMBAY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION BUILDING
भारत के किले FORTS OF INDIA
50
1.50
FORTS OF INDIA
भारत INDIA
36
37
38
भारत INDIA
1.50
INDIA GATE, NEW DELHI
भारत INDIA
5.00
भारत INDIA
6.50
NEW DELHI
भारत INDIA
5.00
HYDERABAD

PLATE 4

POSTAGE STAMPS ISSUED BY PRINCELY STATES

1



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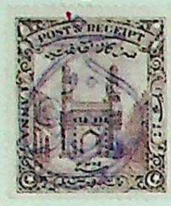
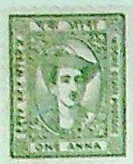

POSTAL RECEIPT

3



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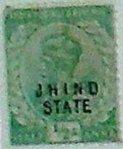
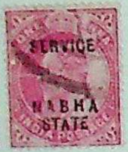
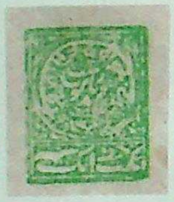

JHIND
STATE

5


SERVICE
NABHA
STATE

6



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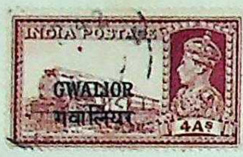
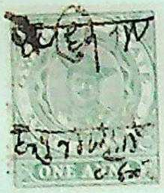

INDIA POSTAGE
GWALIOR
ग्वालियर
4As

8



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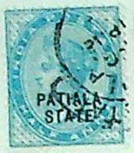
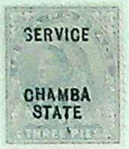
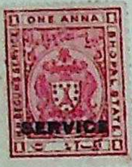

PATIALA
STATE

10


SERVICE
CHAMBA
STATE
THREE PIES

11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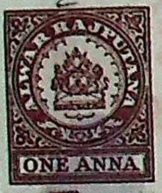
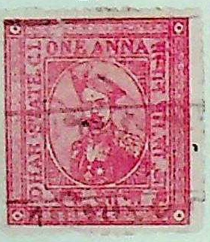
BHOPAL STATE
SERVICE

12


ALWAR RAJPUTANA
ONE ANNA

13



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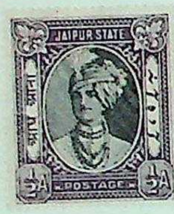
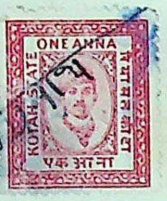
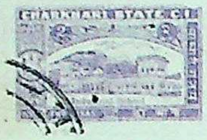

JAIPUR STATE
POSTAGE

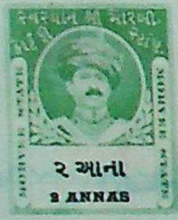
15


ONE ANNA
KOTAH STATE
एक आना

16


CHARKHARI STATE

17



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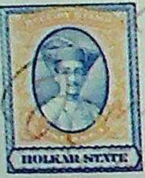
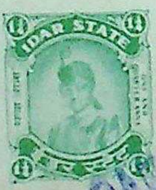

HOLKAR STATE

19



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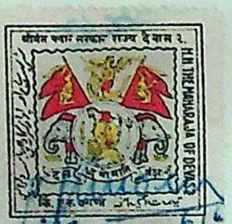
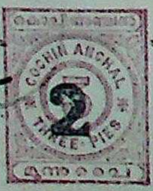
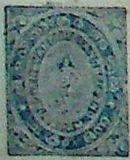

H.H. THE MAHARAJA OF DEWAS

21


COCHIN ANCHAL
2
THREE PIES

22



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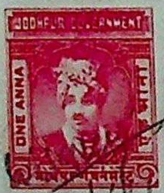
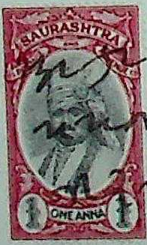
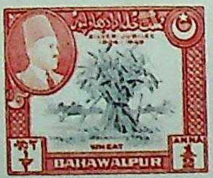

JODHPUR GOVERNMENT
ONE ANNA

24


SAURASHTRA
ONE ANNA

25


WHEAT
ANNA
BAHAWALPUR

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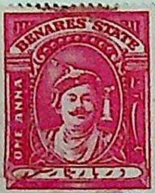
BENARES STATE
ONE ANNA

of the system of postal conventions with the Princely States in supersession of the existing arrangements for postal unity between British India and the great majority of States.[101](For Princely States see Map 3).

The question of postal convention was discussed by the Governor General in Council in 1925 AD and an order was recorded to the effect that the policy of "Postal Unity" should be adhered to. Regarding the question of sharing the profit, it was pointed out that the policy of the Government of India was not to run the Posts and Telegraphs Department on profit and that the actual profit in any year was utilised in the reduction of the interest bearing capital at charge of the Department with the result that the profit or loss re-acted eventually on the rates charged by the Department for the services rendered by it to its customers, including the Government and the public both in the Indian states and in British India. It was, therefore, clear that there were no profits to be shared between the Government of India and the Indian States.[102]

Integration of Princely States' Postal Organisations

The period following the transfer of power to India saw the gradual merger of Indian or princely states into the formal provinces of British India, known as the part 'A' states (under the Constitution of India). On their merger into part 'A' states or grouping into part 'C' states, the postal arrangements and their control etc., substantially remained the same as it existed before the 15th August 1947 AD except the privileges which previously vested in the integrated states were then transferred to the respective Union of States. (see Map 3). The postage stamps issued by only the States of Gwalior, Patiala, Jind, Chamba and Nabha, which had entered in to the convention with the Government of India, were valid in payment of postage on articles posted in their post offices for delivery but the stamps issued by other states having their independent postal systems were not valid in the Indian Union Territory as before.[103] In accordance with the various Instruments of Accession, all states and union of States had acceded in respect of the subject Posts and Telegraphs.[104] The Postal system of Chamba State was taken over on agency basis pending final merger with the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department which took place on the 1st August 1949 AD and that of Patiala, Nabha and Jind on the 16th September 1949 AD. [105]

In the case of Chamba, Tehri Garhwal, Bhopal, Rampur, Kolhapur and Baroda States which were constituted into part 'B' States under the Constitution of India, their postal systems were amalgamated in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs in April 1950 AD, the date fixed for federal financial integration, except the "Anchal" or local postal systems of Travancore-Cochin Governemnt on an agency basis and was taken over directly by the Department for administration in 1951 AD.[106] the integration of princely states postal systems involved administrative changes in an area of more than two lakhs of square miles inhabited by more than 52 million people.[107]

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[101] Foreign & Pol. 62.R of 1928, p.74 of Appx. XII, & 5 & 6, ibid, p.75.

[102] Foreign & Pol. File No.62.R of 1928 Notes to Appendix XII, p.75.

[103] Constituent Assembly of India (Leg.) Proceedings of 2nd February, 1949, p.186.

[104] Ibid.

[105] ARPO 1949-50, p.3.

[106] Parliamentary Debates of 14th March 1950, pp.816-17 and ARPO 1950-51, p.1. and Dr. N.S. Mooss, The Travancore Anchal, pp.5, 21, 40, 42, 44, 45, 47, 48, 51, 54, 56, 57, 59, 60, 63, 71, 101. The Travancore State comprised of the south west extremeties of the Indian Peninsula. It was bounded by the Cochin State and the Coimbatore District on the north, the districts of Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly on the east, the Indian ocean on the south and the Arabian sea on the west. The area of the state was 7625 sq miles. The lofty Sea mountain

On merger, the postage rates were generally brought upto the Indian postal level. The State postal systems were re-organised on the standards laid down by the Department. All the facilities and conventions provided by the Department were extended to the ex-state systems also to provide a uniform standard of service all over. The Staff of the ex-state services were brought on to the various corresponding cadres and scales of pay of the department according to the duties and responsibilities of each post.[108]

The integration of the old Indian states, which was brought about within a very short period during the post-independence era, was an event of historic significance. The ratification of postal conventions, their gradual amalgamation and finally the integration of the residuary princely states postal organisations during the post-independence period led to emergence of the "Postal Unity" in the country and prevalence of the unitary postal system in the country as a whole, the foundations of which were laid with the promulgation of the Post Office Act in 1854 AD.

The taking over of the management of the District posts and their final absorption and the amalgamation of the princely states postal organisations was marked with the increase in the number of post offices, letter boxes, village postmen and the length of mail lines besides increase in the postal traffic, in other words all these developments stimulated the structural growth of India Post.

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range, the western Ghats formed the entire eastern boundry. Mail transport system though in rudimentary form, appears to have been in existance in Travancore during 1729 AD. The posting of private letters and Banghy (parcel) mails was for the first time permitted during 1860 AD. Registration of letters was for the first time introduced in 1865 AD. Hand-struck stamps were presumably in use initially and in 1871 AD hand stamps were supplied to important Anchal offices in the state. The adhesive Anchal Stamps were introduced for the first time in 1888 AD. During the same year postal stationary consisting of Anchal Cards, Service (Official) post cards and embossed envelopes were issued all pillar letter boxes in green colour were erected at important places. Reply cards were introduced for the first time in 1890 AD. A Dead Letter Office was opened for the first time in Travancore in 1894 AD. In 1897 AD many village offices in charge of local school masters were opened in different places. Quinine and Chlorodyne were placed in the Anchal offices for sale to the public. Money order system was for the first time introduced in 1901 AD. Letter cards were introduced in 1898 AD and registration envelopes in 1925 AD. In Travancore State, South Indian Railway lines between Quilon to Trivandrum were completed in 1917 AD. It seems likely that the railway Anchal service would have started functioning in Travancore on the Shencottah-Quilon Section and on the Quilon-Trivandrum Beach Section on or soon on the opening of these lines in 1904 AD and 1918 AD respectively. Further extension from Trivandrum Beach to Thampanur (Trivandrum Central Station) was completed in 1931 AD. The Travancore Anchal Department maintained a Railway Mail Service on this line running from Trivandrum to Shencotta on the border. The Cochin Government maintained Railway Mail Service under the Anchal Department on the line betwen Ernakulum to Cochin Harbour trminus. On both the Trivandrum - Shencotta and Cochin - Shoranur Railway lines, the Indian Postal Department had also simultaneously maintained a Railway Mail Service. In 1919 AD, the state was divided into 8 Anchal Divisions, namely, Padmanabhapuram, Trivandrum, Quilon, Mavelikara, Alleppy, Kottayam, Muvattupuzha and the High Range. In 1904 AD, the total number of Anchal offices and letter boxes were 150 and 179 respectively. They rose to 225 and 303 respectively. The State owned Anchal letter boxes were painted in green.

107. ARPO 1947-48, p.80 and 1953-54, p.75.

108. ARPO 1950-51, p.2.

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STRUCTURAL GROWTH OF INDIA POST

The prime function of the post office has been the delivery of letters at their destinations with all possible speed and security. This service involved the collection, sorting, transmission and delivery of the postal articles. A history of structural growth of Indian Post is, in other words, the process of growth and improvements in the methods of handling the postal articles.

During 1854 AD besides the Presidency Post Offices there were limited number of mofussil post offices and Receiving Houses in the British Indian Territory. As a measure of reforms all Receiving Houses were made Post Offices on 12th August 1856 AD. The then available means of conveyance were the runners, horses and carts on highways and boats on the water routes to assist the postal service. The further development was the post office had been in three directions. First, the extension of postal network i.e., the increase in the number of post offices, letter boxes and the agency for effecting delivery of mails. Secondly the course of development was the penetration of postal lines i.e. the utilisation of the more rapid means of conveyance as a result of development of railway lines, the introduction of motor transport and later of aeroplanes. Thirdly the growth and development of its functions as a result of undertaking by the post office a number of services, both postal and non-postal, from time to time. While the third aspect of its development is discussed exclusively in the next chapter, the first two aspects have been discussed in this chapter.

Expansion of network of Post Offices

The opening of more number of post offices gave an impetus for development of the traffic and conversely the growth in traffic had influenced development of the post office network.

In 1854 AD the East India Company's post offices numbering 700 were mostly located on military routes connecting the Presidencies through the important cantonments.[1] During the initial post-mutiny period, the post offices were mainly opened for catering to the commercial needs.[2] The opening of new post offices for general use was facilitated by the declaration of the condition in 1862-63 AD under which the half of the postage on service

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1. ARPO 1855-56, p.3. There were in all 645 post offices and 55 Receiving Houses in the 4 Presidencies as indicated below.

	Post Offices	Receiving Houses
Bengal	157	13
Madras	130	20
Bombay	107	12
North West Provinces.	251	10
Total	645	55

and chargeable correspondence despatched and received was considered to be equal to the cost of new post offices. The other half of the postage was, it was felt, required to cover the expenses attending the newly created correspondence in the offices from which it came or to which it was consigned, as well as the expense of its transit from one to the other. All the new post offices were placed on an experimental basis for the first six months and were permanently sanctioned on the basis of the returns of the correspondence kept for that period to examine whether the revenue was sufficient to defray the cost.[3]

The natural consequence of transfer of the management of the District post starting from 1864 AD had been the increase in the number of post offices under the imperial system. In places where the Imperial and District post office co-existed, the measures were taken to close down certain post offices to put a stop to the unnecessary expenditure.[4] During the first decade after the introduction of the post office reforms, the percentage of increase in the number of post offices was 73.02 per cent to the growth of the postal traffic. (See Table III.2.).[5] The growth of traffic had led to rise in the number of post offices. The increase in the number of post offices was more in Bombay and Bengal circles during the said decade. (The number of post offices existed in each circle year-wise are furnished in Table III.1).

The system of setting up of "Branch Offices" was introduced in 1866-67 AD. It led to the multiplication of post offices by employment of cheap agencies.[6] Under this system school-teachers, shop-keepers, government pensioners and other were entrusted with postal work for the conduct of which a small monthly allowance was given. This was an economical method of extending postal facilities to places which were too poor to support an independent post office. The rate of progress in the opening of post offices was more in Bengal, Madras and Punjab circles.[7] During the decade ending with 1874-75 AD, the ratio of growth in the number of post offices to the increase in the postal traffic was 47.80 percent. This increase in the number of post offices gave an agency more spread for undertaking new items of business in the following decade.

The introduction of value payable system, the system of insurance of postal articles, post cards and money order business in 1877 AD, 1878 AD, 1879 AD, and 1880 AD, respectively, the establishment of post office savings bank in 1882 AD, the constitution in 1884 AD of the post office as receiving office for the reception of inland telegrams and extension of increased facility of delivery by postmen popularised the post office in mofussil areas.[8] The rate of progress in opening of the post offices was higher in Bombay circle during the decade ending with 1884-85 AD. The increase in the number of post offices to the growth of traffic on all-India basis during the said decade recorded a ratio of 52.64 percent vice Table III.1, an evidence of increased growth in traffic.

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2. ARPO 1861-62, p.2 and ARPO 1863-64, p.1.
3. ARPO 1862-63, p.2 and ARPO 1866-67, p.4.
4. ARPO 1872-73, p.5.
5. The figures are based on the annual reports of the Post Office Department for the respective years.
6. ARPO 1966-67, p.3 and ARPO 1867-68, p.i. The object was to simplify the work and responsibility of small offices by providing that the correspondence sent or posted in the Branch offices should pass through and included in the statistical records and accounts of a head office.
7. ARPO 1874-75, p.11. Appendix I may be seen for further details.

Besides the opening of post offices in charge of extraneous agents, the annexation of upper Burma in November 1885 AD, the amalgamation of the local Mysore Post "Anche" in 1889 AD and the taking over of the management of post offices in Kashmir and various minor native states in 1894 AD contributed to the increase in the number of post offices. Madras, North Western Provinces and Punjab recorded much progress. The introduction of new items of business greatly influenced the increase in traffic figures. The growth brought about in the number of post offices also gave an impetus to the traffic and the ratio of increase of the post offices to the growth of traffic was 64.70 percent (vide Table III.2) during the decade ending with 1894-95 AD.

With the opening up of the country, the spread of education, the establishment of new branches of industry and development of railway communication, throughout India, increase of trade and extension of postal traffic, the services of the post office became more popular among the masses. During the decade that followed, almost every circle in the country recorded good progress in the opening of new post offices (see Table III.1). The new post office opened were chiefly small village post offices of the category in charge of persons not belonging to the department. The ratio of increase in the number of post offices to the postal traffic was 66.06 percent at the end of 1904-05 AD.

The District Post was completely amalgamated into the Imperial Post in 1906 AD. The growth in the number of post offices was less significant during the next two decades that followed (vide Table III.2).[9] But the Imperial post office had localised itself among the rural population of the country. The result was that the growth rate of the postal traffic continued to increase. The increase in the number of post offices to the growth of traffic recorded a ratio of 94.15 percent and 108.59 percent during the decades ending with 1914-15 AD and 1924-25 AD respectively. In other words, the network of post offices extended till 1904-05 AD and amalgamation of District Post which was completed in 1906 AD greatly influenced the growth rate of the postal traffic.

The trade-boom which followed the Armistice pushed up the traffic from 1229 millions of articles handled in 1918-19 AD to 1453 millions in 1921-22 AD. The trade depression which followed and which reached abysmal depths, brought down the traffic to 1218 millions in 1922-23 AD. Since that date, there had been a steady growth in the traffic.[10]

Due to the restrictions placed on opening of new post offices due to financial reasons during the first six years of the decade corresponding with the great war, and its aftermath while the next 4 years i.e. till 1924-25 AD was largely a period of retrenchment.[11]

The Indian Postal Administration became rich in a sense by possession of the highest post office in the world with the opening of a post office at Pharijong, situated at 14,300 feet above the sea level in 1919-20 AD and the wettest at Cherrapunji where the annual rainfall was 50 feet.[12]

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[8] Finance Dept. Sept. Revenue, A. 1 to 3 of Oct. 1877, p.1 and A.333-335 of June 1879, p.1, S.C. of P.S.C. Pro. 1887, p.43.

[9] ARPO 1925-26, p.44.

[10] Table II.1 may be pursued. Chamber's 20th Century Dictionary, p.64. Armistice day, the 11th November 1918 AD is the day on which fighting ended in the First World War, kept as an anniversary.

[11] ARPO 1924-25, p.44. In 1923 AD, the post offices established by the Indian Postal Administration at several places in Persia and the Persian Gulf were closed.

The decision taken by the Department in 1926 AD to provide all large centres of population or places of actual or prospective commercial importance with proper postal facilities not-withstanding that this might result in net expense to the Department contributed to the substantial progress in the development of its operations.

The Heads of circles were authorised to open or retain post offices working at a loss up to Rs.500 per annum. This limit was reduced to Rs.130 in 1930 AD. The Department also laid down a principle that a new post office desired by a local government or administration solely to meet the administrative requirements or the interests of a small section of the public, if considered unlikely to be remunerative, the local postal authority be empowered to dispense with a guarantee if the resultant loss was not expected to exceed Rs.120 per annum.[13]

India along with the rest of the world, came under the economic crisis of 1930-34 AD and the government undertook a detailed examination of the various spending departments to find out where retrenchment could be effected without undue sacrifice of efficiency and appointed a retrenchment committee. The said committee recommended larger employment of extra departmental agents not only in charge of branch offices, but also in charge of sub offices including small combined offices. The system of extra departmental sub-offices was, accordingly, introduced in 1931 AD.[14] Since then the extraneous cheap agency known as the extra departmental system came to be extended to the urban areas also. There was an increase in postal business up to 1929-30 AD but owing to economic crisis there was a fall in the business during the years 1930-31 AD to 1934-35 AD. Therefore, the traffic figure during the year 1934-35 AD recorded a decrease over the figure of the previous decade. The increase in the number of post offices was more during the decade and it recorded increase in ratio to the growth of postal traffic by 82.85 percent (see Table III.2). During the decade ending with 1934-35 AD the progress in opening of new post offices was higher in Madras and Punjab and North Western Frontier circles.[15]

The limit of loss for opening or retaining a branch office was raised from Rs.120 to Rs.240 in 1936 AD.[16] Thereby the pace of development was moderate in the years that followed. The post offices in British Burma ceded from the Indian Postal administration in 1937 AD. At the close of decade in 1944-45 AD, the ratio of increase in the number of post offices to the growth in postal traffic was considerable as a result of development of traffic and was 114.14 percent. The ratio of growth in postal traffic was considerable as a result of development of post office network during the two decades ending with 1944-45 AD. (see Table III.2 and Graph No 1).

The Department introduced for the first time, a mobile post office in 1938-39 AD.[17] This office was a motor vehicle with a body specially constructed and fitted up as a posts and telegraphs office with a telephone booth and intended to be used at fairs, exhibitions and

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[12] ARPO 1919-20. p.2.

[13] Rep. of the Indian States Enquiry Commission (Financial) 1932, p.134 & Report of the Central Pay Commission. 1947. p.232.

[14] Report of the Postal Expert Committee. 1934-35. pp.72,73,74. The system was in practice in Great Britain. Out of 23,125 post offices in Great Britain and Northern Island, there were 21,588 "scale payment" offices known as extra departmental offices in Indian context and only 1517 Crown post offices. In Italy also the said system was largely in use.

[15] ARPO 1934-35. p.38.

[16] Commerce Dept. letter No.A.II.1-3 of 9.10.1946. p.1.

[17] ARPO 1938-39, p.3, Min. of Comm. A.II-1 E/46 of Oct., 1946. p.1. All cities and towns with a population of 10,000 and over and much of those places in other lower population group where a municipality or a notified area

gatherings of comparatively short duration where the public need postal facilities but where the construction of temporary buildings for the purpose was considered as not justified.(For Mobile Post Office see illustration 13).

During the decade that ended with 1944-45 AD the increase in the number of post offices was moderate and the rate of growth of the postal traffic was more.

After the second world war, the Department formulated a Post-War Development Plan for improvement of postal services in urban and rural areas. The plan showed a genuine concern for the development of postal facilities to meet the growing demands. In the urban areas, the post-war plan sought to improve the services by increasing the number and size of post offices in large centres consistent with the volume of traffic. In the rural areas the mere existence of a post office itself was considered as a primary contributory factor in developing traffic. Under the said plan villages with a population of 2000 and over and the villages though with less population but selected by provincial governments for model development were to be provided with a post office.

The permissible limit of Rs.240 for the estimated annual loss on the working of a post office was increased to Rs.500 in 1946 AD and was also applicable to the post offices to be opened in Indian States which had entered the postal unity.[18] This was further liberalised in May 1947 AD by permitting a loss up to Rs.500 per annum to be ignored altogether and raising the limit of loss up to Rs.750 per annum in the cases of those post offices which were expected to show a reduction of loss to Rs.500 within the first year and which could bear the cost of a departmental postman from the very beginning. The opening of post offices was, however, not restricted if the proposed offices were self-supporting or if non-returnable contributions were forthcoming.[19] For opening of a post office under these conditions a compact group of villages within a distance of not more than 4 miles and with a population of 2000 and over was also considered eligible.[20]

Due to the out break of communal disturbances during the year 1946-47 AD at Calcutta and Dacca in Bengal Presidency, Allahabad and Agra in United Provinces, Sylhet in Assam, Ahmedabad, Bombay and Saugar in Central provinces, there was considerable dislocation of work. Eight postal officials were killed, 31 injured and one was missing. There were heavy absentees in various post offices. A number of post offices had to be temporarily closed.[21]

Communal disturbances which started in 1946-47 AD gained in virulence and spread far and wide with the announcement of the partition. These disturbances reached a climax and

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committee existed were considered urban and all other areas were to be considered as rural for the purpose of postal development.

[18] Ministry of Communications, A.II-1.3/48 dt. 9th October 1946, p.1.

[19] Ministry of Communications, A-II-41-11/47 of 10th May 1947, p.1. Under the non-returnable contribution system the estimated cost of running a post office for one year was recovered from the interested individual or party when the post office was to be opened in the limited interests of an individual or party e.g. the management of a factory etc. In case the rural post office opened in the interest of general public was expected to work at a loss exceeding the prescribed limit such proposals were also entertained in case the local public were prepared to pay a non-returnable contribution in advance for an year, at a time, to cover the excess of the anticipated loss over the prescribed limit.

[20] Ibid, p.1.

[21] Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.III, 1947, 3rd session, 10th March to 24th March 1947, pp.2009, 2010.

mass migration of population started resulting in complete dislocation of all means of communication in many parts of the country.[22] Large scale disturbances in Punjab caused serious dislocation of postal arrangements.

There were 26,269 permanent post offices in the unpartitioned Indian sub-continent on 14h August 1947 AD. They included 23,420 offices in-charge of the extra departmental agents, of which 669 comprised of extra departmental sub offices. exclusive of 2638 experimental post offices. There were 4668 and 24,239 post offices in urban and rural areas respectively.[23]

There was phenomenal increase in the Government activities in the post-independence rural India. It led to an appreciable increase in the work in the village post offices. India predominantly consists of villages. Rural postal facilities were to be improved but having regard to the size of the country, the postal development had lagged behind the actual requirement. At the same time demand for increased postal facilities in the urban areas was also felt.

To meet the growing needs of different regions, the prescribed conditions for opening of the new post offices were liberalised. Departmental delivery agents empowered to effect delivery of accountable articles were appointed bringing down the cost of the post office. The limit of loss of Rs. 750 in opening of a post office meant to serve general interest having been continued facilitated opening of a post office even when the estimated income was nil.[24] Opening of post offices on non- returnable contribution was also continued.[25] Besides all these developmental activities, the taking over of certain princely states' postal organisations which was completed in 1950 AD also added to the increase in the number of post offices. The total number of post offices, thereby, increased from 23,344 in 1947-48 AD to 31,161 in 1949-50 AD.[26]

To prevent indiscriminate opening of post offices, it was laid down that in opening new post offices, the loss to the parent office should not be more than Rs.500 per annum. Since 1949 AD the office on its working with a loss of Rs.240 or less within a period of five years from the date of opening was placed on a permanent basis. If the loss in the working exceeded the said limit after this period of five years, the office was to be closed down.[27] With the ushering in of the first five year plan formulated by the Planning Commission in 1950 AD, the village with a population of 2000 or above were provided with a post office provided, the loss did not exceed Rs.750 per annum per post office. During the initial three years all such villages, based on 1951 census, numbering 5795 were provided with a post office.[28]

A new policy for opening rural post offices from 1953 AD onwards was formulated in which the criteria of population and distance from the existing post offices was laid down so as to prevent concentration of post offices in certain regions and the post offices might be opened over a wider area and benefiting a larger number of people. Under the new norms post offices were opened in groups of villages having a population of 2000 and over a distance not less than 3 miles from the nearest existing post office. The permissible limit of

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22. ARPO 1947-48, p.1. 23. ARPO 1947-48, pp.13,34. 24. ARPO 1949-50, p.31
25. ARPO 1949-50, p.31. Parliamentary Debates of 9-3-1950, p.698.
26. ARPO 1949-50, pp.25,31. Also see ARPO 1948-49, p.21.
27. Ministry of Communications, No.PE 40-24/49 of 12th May 1949, p.1 28. ARPO 1951-52, p.8 and ARPO 1952-53, p.9.

loss in the backward areas was raised from Rs.750 to Rs.1000 per annum.[29] The increasing number of rural branch post offices called for the opening of a large number of sub post offices not only on administrative grounds but also in the interest of efficient mail, financial and accounting arrangements as well. Heads of Circles were asked in 1953 AD to effect such conversions on a 'no increase in cost basis' or where the annual loss did not exceed Rs. 500 per annum, provided the upgraded office did not have less than 7 hours work after grading.[30] The maximum permissible limit of loss for upgrading Branch Offices and Extra Departmental Sub Offices into Departmental Sub Offices was increased from Rs.240 to 500 per annum per office in urban areas and from Rs.500 and Rs.1000 in rural areas during 1967-68 AD.[31] With effect from 1st April 1970 AD the opening of rural post offices including those in "very backward" areas, was made conditional to such post offices, earning an estimated revenue of at least 25% of cost at the time of opening. In November,1971 AD the condition was liberalised to 15% of cost for the very backward areas and 10% for hilly areas. For offices in border areas to meet Defence requirements, the annual cost could be up to Rs.2500.[32] The concept of Gram Panchayat Village being given preference for postal purposes was introduced in 1978-79 AD regardless of the actual population of the village.[33]

The norms of opening of post offices that a village should have a minimum population of 2000 in normal rural areas and 1000 in hilly, backward and tribal areas to be eligible for a post office was further amended to the effect that in a hilly, backward and tribal areas, a post office can be opened for an integrated cluster of villages within a radius of 1.5 kms from the proposed post office whose combined population is 1000 or more.[34] In order to shift the focus of further expansion of postal facilities to areas where a genuine need is established, the norms for opening of post offices in urban and rural areas were reviewed and fresh norms were formulated and introduced on 19th December 1987 AD. As per the revised norms a group of villages with a combined population of 3000 in normal rural areas and 1500 in hilly, backward and tribal areas may be provided with a post office. But no new post office is to be opened within a distance of 3 kilometers from an existing post office. Loss up to Rs.2400 per annum in normal rural areas and up to Rs.4800 per annum in hilly, backward and tribal areas is allowed in respect of each post office; while the minimum expected revenue of a post office is 33.33% of its annual cost in normal rural areas and 15% in hilly, backward and tribal areas. In urban areas a new post office is required to be self-supporting at the time of opening and is to earn 5% profit at the end of the first year. But no post office is to be opened within 1.5 kms of an existing post office in cities/towns with a population of 20 lakhs or above and 2 kilometers in other cities/towns.[35]

With these changes in the policies and liberalisation under the progressive five year plans, the number of Branch, Sub and Head Post Offices which were 20,219, 5670 and 217 respectively in 1950-51 AD increased to 1,21,990, 27522 and 834 respectively in 1991-92 AD.

Opening of Extra Departmental Sub Offices was permitted only in urban areas under some exceptional circumstances. In 1969-70 AD, Extra Departmental Sub Offices were permitted to be opened or the existing Extra Departmental Branch Offices to be upgraded to Extra Departmental Sub Offices even in the rural areas provided the work load was not less than 3 hours per day and the proposed Extra Departmental Sub Office is found to be self supporting.[36] In 1978-79 AD a decision was taken to continue the existing Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices. Consequent upon a decision taken in the same year for up-gradation of a Branch office with public telephone facilities to the level of Extra Departmental Sub Office if the actual workload exceeded 4 hours but was less than 5 hours, 5,178 Extra Departmental Branch Offices were upgraded to Extra Departmental Sub offices during 1978-79 AD.[37] During 1979-80 AD, 2,516 more up-gradations took place bringing the total upgraded Extra Departmental Sub Offices to 7,694. Later these offices were downgraded as Extra Departmental Branch Offices as they were found to be unremunerative.[38]

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[29] ARPO 1952-53, pp.9-10. The scheduled areas considered as backward were Frontier and hilly tracts of Assam, and Tripura, Sikkim state, Andamans, regions in Chota Nagpur and Santhal paraganas, Himachal Pradesh, Tehri Garhwal, District in Uttar Pradesh, Areas in Rajasthan Vindhya Pradesh, Bhil areas in Bombay and Kutch state.

[30] ARPO 1957-58, p.23.

[31] ARPO 1967-68, p.37.

[32] ARPO 1971-72, p.5.

[33] ARPO 1978-79, p.1.

[34] ARPO 1979-80, p.1.

[35] ARPO 1986-87, p.5.

As on 31st March 1992 AD there were 1,34,122 post offices opened in rural areas catering to the needs of 6,04,340 villages. In order to reach and provide better postal facilities to the rural populace scattered in more than 6 lakhs of villages in the country, schemes such as provision of postal counters in villages not having a post office, sale of postage stamps through private agencies and Panchayat Dak Sewak were tried.

Postal Counters in Rural Areas

In order to provide counter facilities in villages which were not eligible to have post offices under the norms a scheme was introduced in 1975-76 AD under which selected branch postmasters were required to visit specified villages at fixed times.[39] The services provided during the visit included sale of postage stamps and stationery, registration of articles of the letter mail and booking of money orders. The total number of villages provided with mobile services as on 31st March 1980 AD stood at 70,020.[40]

Sale of Postage Stamps through private agencies

The scheme of licenced postal agents was extended to all towns with a Head Office and also to corporate bodies eligible to take licence, with effect from 1st April,1975 AD for sale of postage stamps and stationery on commission basis. This scheme was extended to rural areas with effect from 4th November,1976 AD. The maximum limit up to which the stamps and stationery can be sold by licenced vendors was raised from Rs.20 to Rs.50 w.e.f. 15th January,1977 AD. An embargo was put on the sale of postage stamps and stationery through licenced agents in the year 1979 AD due to the shortage of various items of stationery and stamps. The embargo was released and a scheme was re-introduced for sale of postage stamps and postal stationery through licenced agents from 1st September,1983 AD.[41] As on 31st March 1986 AD, there were 567 licenced postal agents functioning in different parts of the country.[42] During 1951-52 AD the Departmental officials who performed the combined

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36. ARPO 1969-70, p.38.
37. ARPO 1978-79, p.1.
38. ARPO 1979-80, p.3.
39. ARPO 1976-77, p.4. ARPO 1979-80, p.3.
40. ARPO 1979-80, p.1. ARPO 1983-84, p.7.
41. ARPO 1975-76, p.6. and ARPO 1976-77, p.3.
42. ARPO 1982-83, p.35 and ARPO 1985-86, p.5 The features of this scheme are to give preference to the categories of persons like Ex-Serviceman, P&T pensioners, dependants to deceased Post and Telgraphs employees

duties of Branch Postmaster, Postman and Mail Carrier in rural areas, were known as Dak Sewaks. Dak Sewaks were employed where the amount of work involved does not justify the employment of separate whole-time officials for each duty.[43]

Panchayat Dak Sewak Scheme

With a view to providing postal facilities to the Gram Panchayat (village councils) which do not have a post office, a new scheme called "Panchayat Dak Sewak Scheme" was introduced in 1987-88 AD. As in September 1989 AD there were 3,035 Dak Sewaks in different parts of the country. There were in all 77,386 panchayat villages without any post office in the country on the said date. These villages are proposed to be covered gradually under the Scheme.[44] Keeping in view the public needs at late hours in major cities, the Urban Mobile Post Offices in vans were opened and Night post offices were made to function.

Urban Mobile Post Offices

Urban mobile post office was first opened at Nagpur in 1949 AD. This provided postal facilities at late hours especially when post offices were closed after normal working hours or at places where post offices did not exist. The urban mobile post offices generally worked in the evening with a definite time schedule, visiting different places. This service was extended during 1951-52 AD to the cities of Delhi, Madras and Kanpur.[45] There were 18 such offices functioning in the major cities during 1973-74 AD.[46] To provide greater facilities to the urban populace, Night post offices were opened.

Night Post Offices

During 1950-51 AD the working hours of post offices in 12 major cities were fixed from 8 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. so as to give more facilities to the public. These post offices work on all days, including Sundays, but not on postal holidays. They accept all postal business, the only restriction being that on Sundays ordinary mails are not delivered and savings certificates

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educated unemployed and physically handicapped while appointing as agents. Under this scheme, a service institution, or a voluntary agency or in some cases a suitable individual is entrusted with the responsibility of sale of postage stamps and stationery purchased up to Rs.1000/- per day and 1.5 percent beyond Rs. 1000/- per day is allowed to the agent as also commission of 50 paise per registered article booked up to Rs. 2500/- per month and 25 paise thereafter.

[43] ARPO 1951-52, p.9. During the year 1951-52 AD, 7 Dak Sewaks were functioning in U.P. Circle, 2 in the Central Circle and 1 each in the Bihar and Orissa Circles.

[44] ARPO 1987-88, pp.44,45. Under this scheme, Gram Panchayats/Village councils which do not have a Post office are given a monthly cash grant of Rs. 150/- for maintaining their own Dak Sewaks to provide postal facilities to the village. Necessary service linkages and liberalised commission on the sale of postage stamps and stationey are provided by the Department to these Gram Panchayats.

[45] ARPO 1949-50, pp.32-33 and ARPO 1951-52 p.9. These offices worked on all days of the week, including Sundays and Post Office holidays. [46] ARPO 1950-51, pp.24-25, ARPO 1951-52, p.8. ARPO Mobile Post Offices

transactions are not allowed. As at the close of 1991-92 AD, there were 168 such night post offices in the country.[47] For handling registered and unregistered mail posted in bulk, Bulk Mail Centres are opened in major cities.

Corporate Post Office

To process pre-sorted mail posted in bulk, two bulk mail centres were opened in Delhi in 1992 AD. They were followed with Centres at Bombay etc. This special unit is primarily meant to facilitate postal transactions of share and debenture certificates, refund orders and dividend certificates, refund orders and dividend warrants and other letter mail from corporate sector but open to others also. Letters numbering 10,000 or more when unregistered and 250 or more when registered, posted across the counter by a single mailer is considered as bulk mail. Bulk mail centres accept only the pre-sorted mail. Pre-sorting in accordance with the Department's requirements will entitle the mailer for a rebate of 2% of the postage in addition to the existing rebate for use of a franking machine. For registered articles, the rebate extends to registration fee also.[48]

Average area and population served per Post Office

On an average each post office served an area of 223.98 sq. miles and a population of 44,578 during 1874-75 AD vide Table III.3. It mostly catered to the needs of the commercial community and military personnel. In the Year 1881-82 AD on an average the services of the post office were more favourable in Sindh and Bombay where there was extensive commercial activity.[49]

The next better tally was that of Punjab by its numerous hill stations and by the presence of a large body of European troops. Recruits from the native army were all to a considerable extent drawn from the Punjab, which added to the correspondence with that province.[50] In Assam, the army and police contained numerous foreigners and the European population of the province was also extensive. It further led to the increase in letter writing process due to

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1952-53, p.11 and ARPO 1953-54, p.20. Also see Parliamentary debates of 5th April 1954, p.1740. Hyderabad state postal system was prime of the systems amalgamated. There were in all 1719 state post offices and 44 Union post offices in the said state prior to integration and 759 post offices were opened up to 1953-54 AD, after the integration.

46. Statistical Digest 1973-74, p.iv.

47. ARPO 1950-51, P.4 and Book of Information, 1993, p.11.

48. Figures are based on the annual reports of the corresponding years. The number of posts offices from 1874-75 AD to 1904-05 AD are inclusive of District Post Offices in the British territories. ARPO 1993-94, pp.28, 36.

49. ARPO 1881-82, p.6.

50. ARPO 1881-82, p.6.

51. ibid, p.7. Figures are based on the annual reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

(a) Assam circle was created in 1874 AD Bihar and East Bengal circle was created in 1878 AD and in the following year, the later was bifurcated into a Assam circle in 1907 AD In 1914 AD the two postal circles of Bengal and Eastern Bengal were replaced by two circles called Bengal and Assam and Bihar and Orissa.

(b) In 1947 AD, Bihar and Orissa circles were bifurcated into two independent circles, namely, Bihar and Orissa.

(c) Punjab circle was created in 1860 AD.

process due to imported labour from other provinces.[51] Bengal had the advantage of presidency town containing perhaps the largest European population to be found in India. But due to the restrictions imposed by the Zamindar Dak Act, which tended to hinder the expansion of postal operations in the province, its average area and population per post office remained low. In Central India, Rajputana, and British Burma, the said averages were low in 1881-82 AD as the post office had not been popular in these regions. (Vide Table III.5 and 6).[52]

During 1904-05 AD, the average area per post office was around 60 sq. miles in Madras, East Bengal, Bengal, Bihar and Bombay circles, while it was 78 and 86 sq. miles in North Western provinces and Punjab and United provinces respectively. In Central provinces and Assam it was 144 sq.miles and 163 sq. miles respectively per post office. Then stood Rajputana and British Burma circles with 335 and 676 sq. miles per post office respectively (vide Table III.4). Thereafter there was moderate growth in the number of post offices. The position of Bengal, Punjab, Bombay and United provinces was much altered. The area per post office was almost reduced to half in 1947 AD as compared to the figures of 1904-05 AD. The distance to approach a post office being reduced, it came nearer to the people. The post-independence development much benefited the postal development in Madras, Bihar, Orissa, Bengal and Assam circles vide table III.5.

As regards the population per post office, the position as in 1904-05 AD almost continued and noticeable change occurred during the post-independence period of about 7 years vide table III.6. This was mainly due to the change in the policy of the Department to provide a village or a cluster of villages with a population of 2000 or above with a post office by relaxing the financial restraints.

During the period from 1954-55 AD to 1992-93 AD in which the growth in number of post offices had been 3 folds, circles like West Bengal, Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajputana were much benefited (vide Table III.4) as the policy pursued in opening of post offices had been to identify the backward areas with regard to the availability of postal facilities initially and thereafter its focus having been concentrated upon the hilly and very backward areas.

India has the largest number of post offices in the world. As on 31st March 1993 AD, it had 1,52,037 post offices. In 1989 AD, the latest year for which comparable data is available, there were 1.45 lakh post offices in the country, which was way ahead of United

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(d) Oudh was created in 1871 AD and amalgamated with North Western Provinces circle in 1894 AD The later was renamed as United Provinces in 1903-04 AD The United Provinces circle was renamed as "Uttar Pradesh" in 1949-50 AD

(e) Rajputana circle was abolished and merged with Central circle in 1907 AD in 1953 AD "Rajasthan" circle came into being.

(f) Andhra circle was carved out of Madras circle in 1953 AD.

(g) Hyderabad Deccan circle was created in 1949-50 AD.

(h) Sind and Baluchistan circle ceded from the Indian Postal Administration on bifurcation of the country in 1947 AD.

(i) Delhi circle came into existence in 1947 AD.

(j) Burma circle was created in 1861 AD and ceded from the Indian Postal administration in 1937 AD

(k). Mysore Circle was created in 1960 AD Kerala in 1961 AD and Jammu and Kashmir in 1966 AD.

52. ARPO 1881-82, p.7. Figures are based on the annual reports of the Department for corresponding years.

53. The 8th Five Year Plan 1992-97. p.264.

States of America (40,031), China (50,811) France (17,019) and South Korea (3,125) to name a few. The numbers themselves do not convey much. They have to be seen in juxtaposition to the service they render. During the said year on an average Indian post office served an area of 22 Sq. Km. and 5450 inhabitants compared to 5079 SQ. Kms. and 15,830 persons in Saudi Arabia, 1746 Sq. Km. and 3555 persons in Australia, 1275 Sq. Km. and 49,099 persons in Iraq. 229 Sq. Km and 6172 persons in United States of America, 188 Sq. Km and 21,883 persons in China and 62 Sq. Km and 8056 persons in Pakistan.[53]

The gradual growth in the number of post offices had influenced the increase in postal traffic and conversely the growth in postal traffic affected the development of postal net work. These had been complementary to each other throughout. (Vide table III.1 and Graph No. 1).

Installation of Letter Boxes

In 1854 AD there were no letter boxes placed at the post office, or outside (pillar). The collection of public correspondence at the first stage of its journey used to be at the window of the post office. This was owing to the system prevailing at that time i.e., till 1854 AD the postage was prepaid in money. The post office reforms facilitated establishment of letter boxes for collection of correspondence from the public for onward despatch to its destination.[54] Pillar boxes were adopted after the introduction of postage labels.[55]

In the beginning although the letter box was in general favourably received as an "useful postal institution", in some parts of the country, people distrusted the letter box and opposed its installation at, or near, their houses.[56] During the first year of introduction i.e. in 1855-56 AD, 71 letter boxes were planted outside the premises of the post office. The letter boxes were attached to the police stations and at places of public resort and other convenient places where people were found willing to take charge of them. Soon the distrust began wearing out and the people were seen freely using the letter boxes.[57]

The letters from the letter boxes were cleared by the office peons. The responsibility of clearance of the District post letter boxes rested with the Thanadars. By 1874-75 AD, 6181 letter boxes were planted and on an average each letter box served an area of 151.29 sq. miles and a population of 30,133 vide table III.7.

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[54] L' Union Postale, 1886, p.75 and L' Union Postale, 1976, p.141A. In the seventeenth century "post stones", set up in Southern Africa - in particular at the cape of Good-hope were to some extent the fore-runners of posting boxes. They were simply large rocks under which the crews and passengers of ships on their way to India deposited addressed letters so that the crews of other ships returning to Europe on the same route could pick them up and deliver them to the addressees. For a long time very little use was made of letter boxes. First letter box was planted at Berlin in 1766 AD and Warsaw as late as 1807 AD. In 1855 AD, the first pillar letter boxes were put up in London.

[55] Hamilton, I.G.J. An outline of postal history and practice, p.157. The delivery peons were engaged for delivery of correspondence in the Presidency towns and District Headquarters and hired men (coolies) were engaged to deliver mails in the suburbs. The hired men were paid by the recipients at fixed rates depending on the distances they travelled. In 1854 AD, 1663 postmen and servants worked in the imperial post office.

[56] ARPO 1856-57/57-58, p.1.

[57] ARPO 1855-56. p.4.

PLATE 5

POST OFFICE

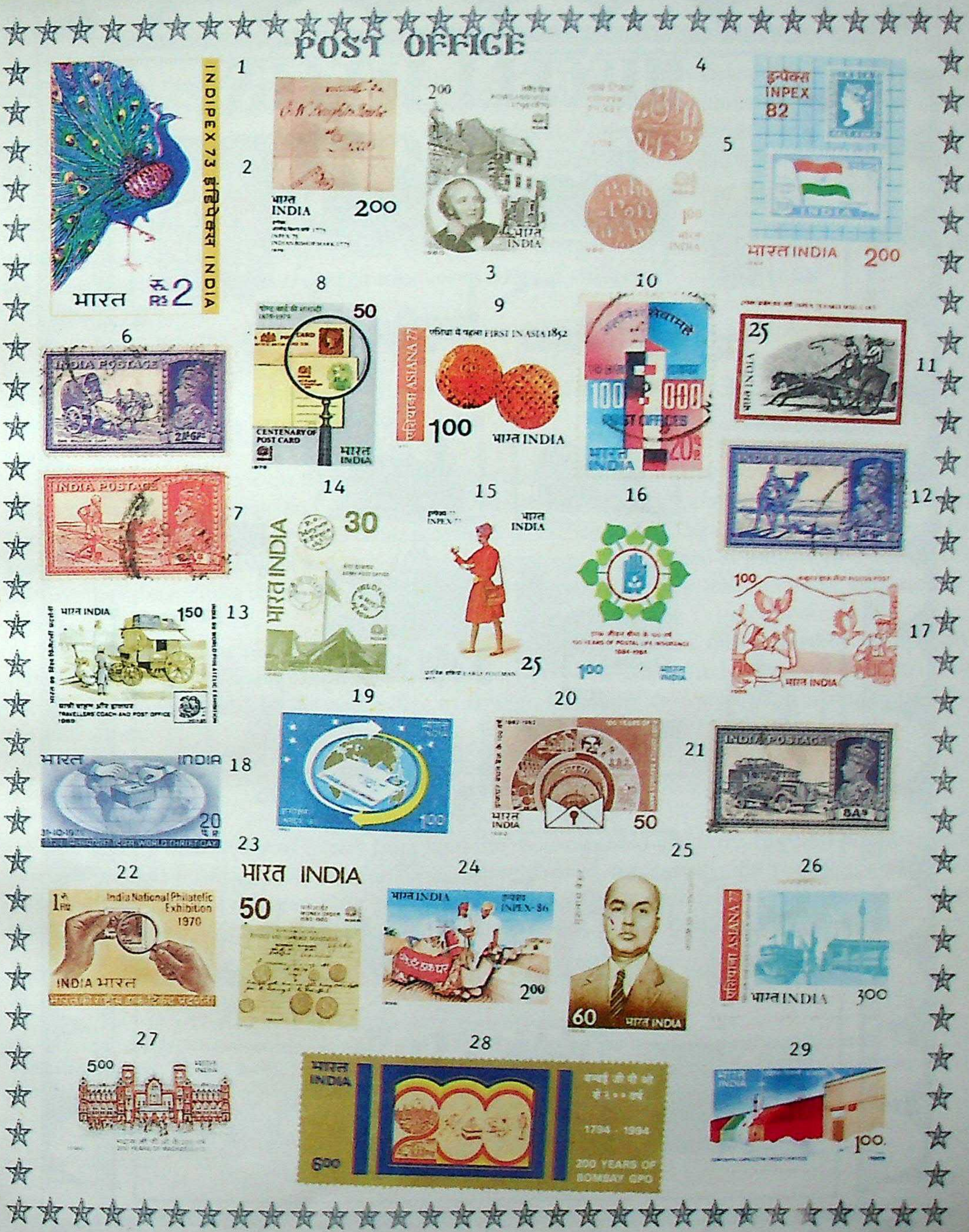
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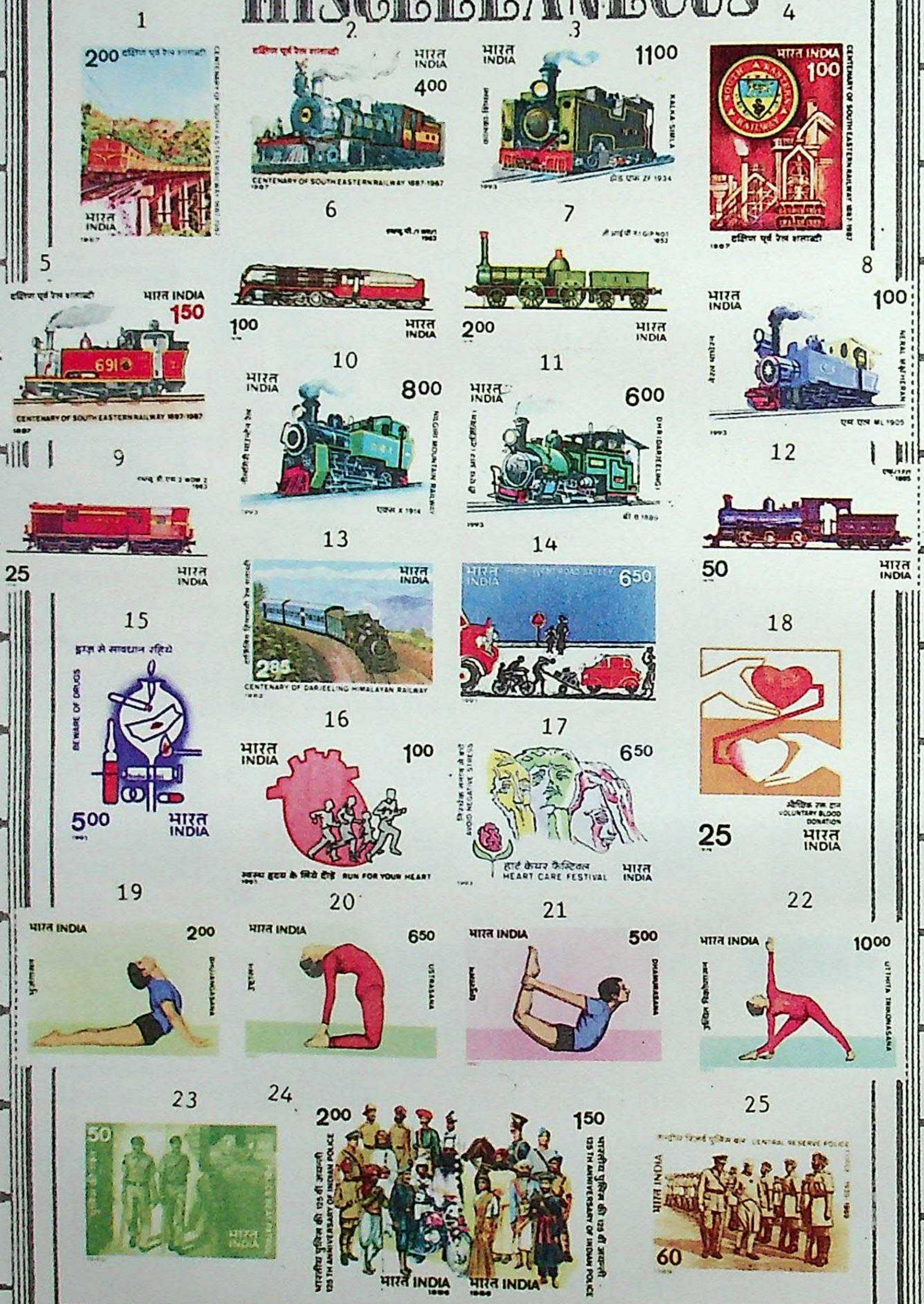
PLATE 6

MISCELLANEOUS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CENTENARY OF SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY 1887-1987
KALKA SIMLA
NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAILWAY
DARJEELING
NERAL MATHERAN
CENTENARY OF DARJEELING HIMALAYAN RAILWAY
BEWARE OF DRUGS
RUN FOR YOUR HEART
HEART CARE FESTIVAL
VOLUNTARY BLOOD DONATION
BHUJANGASANA
USTRASANA
DHANURASANA
UTTHITA TRIKONASANA
125TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIAN POLICE
CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE
भारत INDIA

As compared to the figures of 1874-75 AD, the average area and population served per letter box were almost reduced to half by 1894-95 AD, vide table III.7. On the basis of Census of 1901 AD, a systematic review of villages was undertaken in order to ascertain the places requiring provision of letter boxes and at the close of 1904-05 AD the number of letter boxes were almost doubled and the average area and population per letter box were therefore, considerably reduced.

In rural areas the letter box was placed at the villages without a post office. Consequently there was gradual and moderate growth in the number of letter boxes in such areas. With the separation of Burma in 1937 AD and the partition of the country in 1947 AD, the number of letter boxes under charge of the Indian postal administration decreased and by the close of 1944-45 AD and 1947-48 AD the total number of letter boxes stood reduced considerably as compared to the figures of 1934-35 AD. The street letter boxes and those planted at villages other than those at the post offices in the undivided Indian territory in 1947 AD were 57,321 out of which 40,011 were in the rural and 17, 310 in the urban areas. The number of letter boxes in the villages were obviously not sufficient to meet the requirements of the rural area with over seven lakhs of villages.[58]

After Independence the progressive planning led to an enormous increase in the number of letter boxes. The number of letter boxes rose from 46,776 in 1947-48 AD to 4,97,291 in 1991-92 AD. On an average each letter box served an area and population of 6.61 sq. miles and 16,980 people respectively, as on 31st March 1992 AD.[59]

To afford a real check on the regular and punctual clearance of letter boxes, the moveable hour plates for town letter boxes and day plates for letter boxes in the interior areas were introduced in Punjab in 1892 AD and extended to other provinces in 1893-94 AD. The moveable plates were to be kept in responsible custody in the post office and given out and returned at prescribed times. In the interior, they exercised a check on the deliveries and the clearance of the letter boxes by the postman.

The letter boxes planted in the villages not having a post office were thus cleared by the delivery staff of the post office during the course of their beats. After collecting letters from the letter boxes, it became the responsibility of the post office to arrange for proper delivery of the correspondence to the addressees.

Delivery of mails

The facility of delivery of letters from house to house existed under the Imperial postal system even before 1854 AD. However, for further strengthening the system, the presidency towns of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras were conveniently arranged into well-defined beats with sufficient number of delivery peons posted to provide two deliveries a day.[60] Under the District post system, the Thanadars were responsible for delivery of correspondence and the police and village chowkidar were utilised for the purpose in the towns and villages.[61]

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[58] ARPO 1947-48, PP.96,L34.

[59] ARPO 1947-48, p.74 and ARPO 1953-54, pp.74-75. Book of Information, 1993.

[60] Report of Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.79, ARPO 1855-56, p.4 and Director General's Office circular No.711 of 13th March 1858 p.1. The Indian Post Office was in advance of the post office of the United States of America, and of many of the minor states of Europe, in that there was a free delivery of letters from house

In 1854 AD, 1,663 postmen and other servants worked in the Imperial post office. The correspondence passing through the District post was yet too limited.

In 1854 AD, the Imperial postal system took up the responsibility of organising the delivery system in the presidencies, provincial capitals, cities, large towns and in the interior villages of this vast country, intercepted by the absence of roads and transport system. This attempt was first directed on 12th August 1856 AD towards reforming the establishment of letter peon (Postmen) at 75 letters delivered a day for each peon.[62] Another improvement in the delivery of correspondence appeared with the gradual taking over of the management of District posts of various provinces by the imperial postal authorities. The collection and delivery of correspondence was taken out of the hands of the coolies and village watchmen and entrusted to the rural messengers stationed at important points with circuits so arranged that every town and village within the transferred districts had the means of postal communication. The rural messenger followed a prescribed route generally weekly or bi-weekly.

The window delivery system was introduced in the Presidency towns in 1858 AD, under which the ticket holder was entitled to receive his letters at the post office window.[63] In 1864 AD the management of District posts was placed at the hands of the Imperial postal authorities. The Rural messengers were appointed for collection and delivery of correspondence. They were supplied with a bag or box, having a lock, in which letters could be posted, the key remained with the postmaster of the office to which he was attached. They were also required to carry with them postage for sale.[64] The rural messenger followed a prescribed route generally weekly or bi- weekly. By the end of 1874-75 AD there were 1,417 such messengers appointed in the North Western, Bombay, Bengal, Punjab, Oudh and Central Provinces. This figure, however, rose to 4,039 in 1984-85 AD.[65]

The facility of receiving the published matter at the door-steps under value payable system encouraged the people to purchase the published matter and newspapers. In addition to these valuable articles the rural messengers and postmen in towns were given additional responsibility of payment of the Money orders in 1885 AD.[66] They were required to collect letters, and also to register letters, in the villages visited. In 1888-89 AD the rural messengers who served only the post town came to be known as regular postmen of those offices and not as rural messengers and other rural messengers were redesignated as village postmen. Therefore, the number of village postmen which was 3297 in 1888-89 AD rose to 4143 in 1894-95 AD.[67] It further rose to 8,322 in 1904-05 AD.[68] The actual delivery arrangements at Madras, Rangoon, Lahore and Kanpur and may large

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to house, whereas in the United States, nothing of the kind was attempted, or where provision existed, it was made the ground of an additional charge. 61. Foreign Dept. (Pol.), No.28-29 of 4 May 1856, p.5.

63. Director General's Office circular No.711 of the 13th March 1858, p.1. 64. ARPO 1867-68, p.8. 65. ARPO 1874-75, p.4 and ARPO 1884-85, p.3.

66. ARPO 1886-87, p.3. It was to Germany that India is indebted for this plan of paying money orders at the payee's residence. The system was one which had been adopted either in the United Kingdom or in the most of the principal countries in the West. 67. ARPO 1888-89, p.2 and 1994-95, p.2.

68. ARPO 1904-05, p.2 and 1914-15 p.3.

towns were greatly improved.[69]

A curious case that occurred in Ludhiana District of Punjab deserves mention. On the 22nd June, 1911 AD two villagers seated near a small pool of water covered with greens scum, touched a frog on the water with stick. The frog leaping away disclosed a bundle of letters on which it had been sitting. The school-master, who was also a branch postmaster, had given the letters to one of his pupil for delivery, and the boy, instead of delivering them had thrown them in to the pool.[70]

During the Great War, restrictions were imposed on the creation of new posts of village postmen and the post-war period saw retrenchment of the posts. The number of village postmen at the close of 1924-25 AD was 8,463 and recorded a marginal increase of 250 over the figure of the last decade.[71]

Starting from 1926 AD the appointment of extraneous agents which was confined to the Branch Postmaster's class was extended to other categories and Extra-Departmental runners and Extra Departmental delivery agents came to be employed.[72] The total number of delivery staff in the rural areas which included 17,188 village postmen and 4,359 extra departmental delivery agents in 1934-35 AD decreased to 13045 village postmen and 3,950 extraneous agents in 1944-45 AD as Burma was bifurcated in 1937 AD.[73] During the post-war period it was considered that places with a population of one lakh and above be served by three deliveries in a day. In bigger cities it was considered that the number may be increased even to six deliveries a day. The delivery staff in the urban areas was augmented accordingly from time to time. At the time of partition of the country on the 14th August,1947 AD, the delivery establishment in rural areas comprised of 18,485 village postmen and 3,668 extra departmental delivery agents.[74]

During the post independence period, efforts were made to extend delivery of mails at least once a week to villages with a population of 500 and above and to bring all the "no-dak" villages on the "unfixed" beat system under which the delivery staff was required to visit these villages whenever there were letters for delivery.[75] By 1954 AD all the 7,00,000 villages in the farthest nook and corner of the country were brought under the ambit of postal delivery.[76] The rural delivery staff which comprised of 15,286 personnel as at the close of 1947-48 AD increased to 20,929 in 1953-54 AD i.e. an increase of 36.92 percent.[77] Apart from strengthening of the delivery staff, introduction of the post boxes, registration of abbreviated address, introduction of Pin Code and the Mail Box scheme are some of the reforms carried out for improvement of delivery system.

All India Mail Survey is conducted once in a year by the Heads of the Circle. One Post Office is selected in each Postal Division for the purpose of the survey. For the first time, in the year 1993 AD, accountable articles like registered articles, money orders etc. as also Second Class mails were included in the All India Mail Survey. The survey results reveal that in respect of unaccountable first

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69. ARPO 1903-04 p.2 and ARPO 1906-07, p.2. 70. ARPO 1911-12, p.14.
71. ARPO 1924-25, p.44. 72. ARPO 1928-29, p.44. 73. ARPO 1934-35, p.38, ARPO 1936-37, p.37 and ARPO 1944-45 p.32. 74. ARPO 1947-48, Pt.I, p.34. 75. ARPO 1948-49, p.7.
76. ARPO 1953-54, p.74.
77. ARPO 1953-54, p.74. There were 3389 E.D. runners employed for conveyance and delivery work. The postmen and mail guards attached to the post office comprised of 38,281 in 1953-54 AD. DG's Circular No 9 dated 01st June 1994.

class mails, the situation in respect of eastern states of the country is not satisfactory. 44% of Home District mails in Bihar, 52% in West Bengal and 57% in Assam were delivered within a norm of D+1. In respect of home circle mails 45% were delivered in a norm of D+2 in West Bengal and in the same states 56% mails originating and in the same states 56% mails originating in other circles were delivered in transit of D+4. So far registered first class mails were concerned, 38% originating in other circles were delivered in a norm of D+4 in Assam, 58% in West Bengal and 61% in North East. In respect of money orders, the situation was not satisfactory in respect of Himachal Pradesh, the North East, Punjab and West Bengal 8% of money orders originating in other circles were delivered within D+4. In respect of Second Class Mails the situation was not satisfactory in respect of West Bengal and the North East.[77a]

Post Box and Post Bag

Owing to the increase in the number of persons who prefer to take delivery of their correspondence from the window of the post office and in order to facilitate sorting of such correspondence, the post box system was introduced from the 1st September 1907 AD.[78] The wooden and steel post boxes took a lot of space and made post offices unsightly. Prototype i.e. metallic post boxes of suitable dimensions which could be embedded in walls of post office buildings were adopted in 1949-50 AD.[79] Those addressees who wish to have their mail delivered in a closed bag through their special messenger were provided with the facility of Post Bag system under which the registered articles along with other ordinary mail could be received from the post office for delivery to the addressees and also be sent to the post office for booking. This system particularly benefited the plantations and government officials serving with the Geological Survey of India, Survey of India etc. As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 81,191 Post Boxes installed in various post offices in the country.[80]

Registration of Abbreviated Addresses

The system of 3 monthly, 6 monthly and 9 monthly registration with a varying scales of fees depending upon the period for which the registration is effected was abolished and registration with effect from 1st May 1963 AD was done on an yearly basis. The fee for the registration of an abbreviated address was fixed as Rs.50 with effect from the same date.[81]

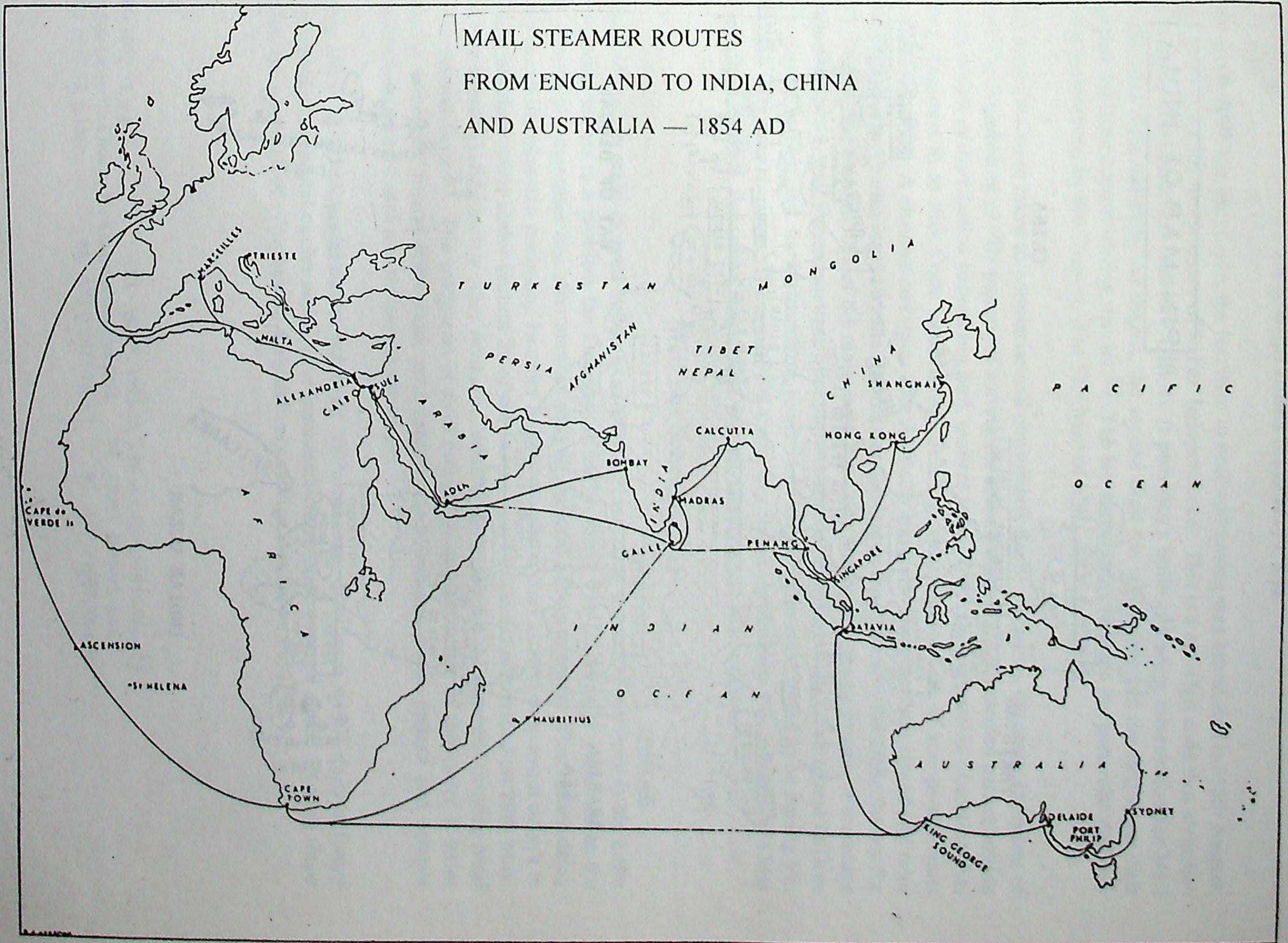
[77a] DG's Circular No 9 dated 01st June 1994. D represents for the day of posting.

[78] ARPO 1926-27, pp.6,7. The post box holder desirous of his foreign mails sorted and closed in a bag could have so by paying a special fee of Rs. 24 per annum in addition to the rent charged for hiring a letter box. The fee for a post box was originally the same as that for a window delivery ticket viz, Rs.12 which was raised to Rs. 15 per annum from 1st April 1928 AD. The rent of post boxes and post bags was reduced from Rs. 15 and Rs. 24 respectively to Rs.12 per annum from the 1st October 1940 AD.

[79] ARPO, 1948-49, p.31 and ARPO 1949-50, p.31. The post boxes in use in Switzerland were adopted for the purpose of the manufacture of post boxes which was done by Telegraphs' Workshop', Alipore (Calcutta).

[80] Book of Information, 1993, p.17.

[81] ARPO. 1963-64, p.8.



MAIL STEAMER ROUTES
FROM ENGLAND TO INDIA, CHINA
AND AUSTRALIA — 1854 AD

MARSEILLES
TRIESTE
MALTA
ALEXANDRIA
CAIRO
SUEZ
ADEN
ARABIA
TURKESTAN
PERSIA
AFGHANISTAN
TIBET
NEPAL
MONGOLIA
CHINA
SHANGHAI
HONG KONG
CALCUTTA
BOMBAY
INDIA
MADRAS
GALLE
PENANG
SINGAPORE
BATAVIA
PACIFIC
OCEAN
INDIAN
OCEAN
AFRICA
CAPE de VERDE Is
ASCENSION
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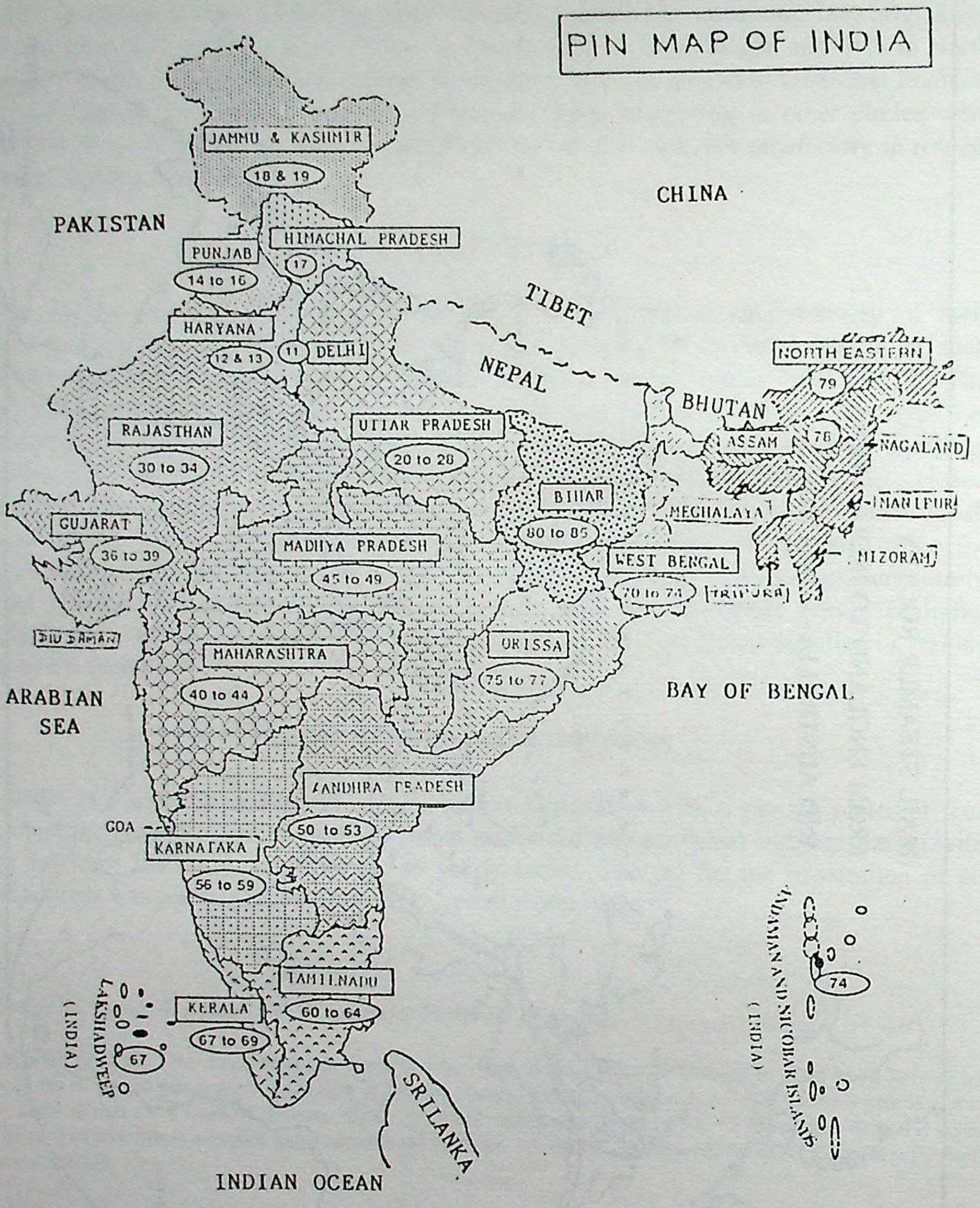
MAURITIUS
CAPE TOWN
AUSTRALIA
KING GEORGE SOUND
ADELAIDE
PORT PHILIP
SYDNEY

Map 4.


PIN MAP OF INDIA
JAMMU & KASHMIR
18 & 19
CHINA
PAKISTAN
HIMACHAL PRADESH
17
PUNJAB
14 to 16
TIBET
HARYANA
12 & 13
11
DELHI
NEPAL
NORTH EASTERN
79
BHUTAN
UTTAR PRADESH
20 to 28
ASSAM
78
NAGALAND
RAJASTHAN
30 to 34
BIHAR
80 to 85
MEGHALAYA
MANIPUR
GUJARAT
36 to 39
MADHYA PRADESH
45 to 49
WEST BENGAL
70 to 74
TRIPURA
MIZORAM
DIU DAMAN
MAHARASHTRA
40 to 44
ORISSA
75 to 77
ARABIAN SEA
BAY OF BENGAL
ANDHRA PRADESH
50 to 53
GOA
KARNATAKA
56 to 59
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (INDIA)
74
LAKSHADWEEP (INDIA)
67
KERALA
67 to 69
TAMILNADU
60 to 64
SRILANKA
INDIAN OCEAN

PIN (Postal Index Number) Code

PIN (Postal Index Number) Code, the last item in mail addressing was introduced on 15th August, 1972 AD, the eve of 25th Anniversary of Indian Independence. This is a six-digit code that identifies and locates every Departmental Delivery Office. It provides a built-in routing information for Mail sorting. The first digit indicates the region, the second digit the sub-region and the first three digit taken together indicate central sorting district.[82] The last three digits indicate the particular delivery office in the area served by the District. (For PIN Map of India see Map No. 4).

Several measures were taken to popularise and consolidate the new scheme, the more important of which were the introducing of PIN pattern of sorting for second class mails at selected packet sorting offices, conversion of distribution lists of big/bulk mailers in to PIN Code, conversion of sorting lists and sorting diagrams in to PIN Code in different circles, gradual replacement of stamps and seals with those bearing PIN. A cheaper and up to date All India Pin Code Directory was issued and mini pin-code directories were also issued by the Postmaster General in the circles.[83] Pin Code Survey for 1993 AD revealed that around 50% of the mails bore Pin Code numbers in the addresses. Percentage of Pin coded articles is much lower in case of communications emanating from Government Offices and Public Sector Institutions. In Metropolitan cities 74.85% of articles were found to be having Pin code numbers in their addresses. The use of Pin Code was found particularly low in states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra.[83a]

Mail Box Scheme

Delivery of mail in multi-storyed buildings as they are increasing in number not only in big cities but also in other towns is a problem the Department has to face. The Postman is subjected to the hardship of multiple staircases one after another with all the mail he has to carry. This causes delay in delivery down the beat of a postman. In order to help the postal staff as well as to avoid delays in deliveries, a statutory order under section 21 of the Indian Post Office Act was issued on 29th May, 1991 AD that those residing on the other floors, i.e. other than the ground floor, should provide Mail Box on the ground floor.[84] The categories of mail brought within the scope of this order is letter mail namely; envelope, inland letter card, post card and aerogramme, book, pattern and sample packet, acknowledgement card and registered newspaper.[85]

During 1978-79 AD all postal circles achieved 100% coverage of villages within daily delivery service excepting four postal circles which have inaccessible and snow-covered areas. Even in these four circles, the coverage of villages with daily delivery service was above 99%.[86]

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82. ARPO 1972-73, p.4. 83. ARPO . 1972-73, p.16 and ARPO 1975-76, p.25.
83A. Director General's Circular No 6 dated 01st March 1994. 84. ARPO. 1991-92, p.44.
85. ARPO 1992-93, p.301. 86. ARPO 1978-79, p.1. 87. ARPO 1989-90, p.34.

Payment of money orders and delivery of articles were improved during 1989-90 AD by raising the aggregate value of money that may be entrusted to postmen from Rs. 5000 to 8000 in urban areas and from Rs.2000 to Rs. 4000 in rural areas. Especially, payment of money order in rural areas was improved thereby.[87]

Delivery on Holidays

The Post Office used to deliver fully prepaid unregistered mail on all post office holidays. This was reduced to three National holidays in 1974 AD. In 1982 AD delivery of mails on holidays was totally discontinued as a measure of economy. However, based on the experience of intervening years, it was found necessary to give some relaxation to the measure because, when holidays ran consecutively, the mail was not delivered to the public for two or more days causing inconvenience both to the public as well as to the postal staff in so far as they had to deal with a much larger volume of mail on the next working day. Since September, 1992 AD one delivery of fully paid, unregistered mail on post office holidays except National holidays and Sundays was introduced. This has ensured that there are never more than two days at a stretch with out delivery of mails.[88]

India is among the few countries where all mail, irrespective of nature or destination, is delivered at home. Hong Kong, France or South Korea are some others. This is not so even in U.S.A, Australia, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The burden cast by this service on the postal system can best be judged in the light of the volume of mail handled by the system. In 1980 AD the volume of domestic mail was 130 billion articles, which was lower than only United States of America (1597 billion) Japan (200 billion) and France (190 billion). In fact most Asian countries other than Japan, did not have even half of the volume of traffic compared to India.[89] The significance of India Post lies not merely in its network of 1,50,000 post offices on the volume of mail handled but in its being capable of making delivery of postal articles including payment of money orders at the doorsteps of 900 million of Indians scattered in more than six lakhs of distant villages.

The increased demand for early receipt of mails by the addressees and the improved modes of conveyance accelerated the processes of transmission of correspondence from one place to another.

Conveyance of correspondence

Till 1854 AD, the chief lines of postal communication on which letters were carried with speed had witnessed less delays in cases of the Company and the European community's postal articles as compared to the internal traffic conveying the native correspondence.[90] The Post Office Commissioners recommended the care of the extensive traverse lines which required establishment of cross posts independent of the main line.[91]

Besides the Grand Trunk Road from Calcutta to Peshawar, the main lines of postal communication were between Calcutta and Bombay via Nagpur and Agra covering a distance of 1371 and 1531 miles respectively and from Calcutta to Madras via Cuttack, Ganjam and Vishakapatnam. Between Madras and Bombay there were three main lines, the shortest of them was via Bellary, Bijapur, Pundharpur and Yanagaon covering a distance of 764 miles.[92] In Bengal the mails were despatched on 6 different routes, in Madras on 5 and in Bombay on 4. There were numerous roads of local importance in various provinces on which the District Post lines were stationed.[93]

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[88] ARPO 1993-94, p.36.

[89] 8th Five Year Plan, p.264.

[90] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.91.

[91] Ibid, p.91.

In an endeavour to improve the means of internal land communication, in all parts of the country, the Grand Trunk road between Calcutta to Delhi and therefrom to Lahore was repaired and metalled. By 1854 AD it was further extended to Peshawar and thus came the frontier of Afghanistan linked with Calcutta, the capital of British India. Its total length is estimated at 1423 miles and is thus divided:[94]

	Miles
Calcutta to Delhi	887
Delhi to Karnal	78
Karnal to Ludhiana	124
Ludhiana to Ferozpur	74
Ferozpur to Lahore	50
Lahore to Peshawar	210
Total	1423

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[92] House of Commons No.245 of 1856 p.31 and ARPO 1855-56, p.7. The Grand Trunk Road passed through Benaras, Allahabad, Kanpur, Aligarh, Delhi, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Beas, Amritsar, Lahore, Vazirabad, Jhelum, Rawalpindi, Attack and Peshawar.

[93] Home (Public) Consultation NO.I(a) of 7 July 1866, p.72 and ARPO 1855-56, p.9. House of Commons, No.245 of 1856, p.31 and Bengal Past and Present XXII, (S.Nos.43-44) of Jan-June 1921, pp.168-70. From among the other two mail lines between Bombay and Madras, one passed through Nellore, Ongole, Mulkapur, Secunderabad, Gulbarga, Sholapur, Poona, Khandala and Panvel covering a distance of 836 miles and the other one passed through Mysore state, Bangalore, Harihar, Dharwar and Poona covering a distance of 820 miles.

[94] Kaye, John William. The Administration of East India Company, pp.306, 307. The annual traffic which passed along the Grand Trunk road during 1846-47 AD was as follows:

Hackeries	62,906	Sheep and Goats	21,738
Camels	13,548	Elephants	287
Bullocks and Buffaloes	29,473	Horses and Ponies	40,304
Total	1,05,927	Total	62,329

Foot Passengers	5,65,347	Buggies	617
Coolies and Banghies	7,883	Behris	9,950
		Palkis (Palanquins)	1,798
Total	5,73,230	Total	12,365

The six years of efforts made by East India Company to improve the conditions of travel in upper provinces of the country resulted in erection of halting grounds for troops and 'Serais' (rest houses) at convenient intervals. The Government also established provision depots wherein the company stationed its own contractors there, and compelled them to conform to the rules framed for the prevention of extortion or exorbitance. The traveller could find board and lodging, and accommodation for man and beast, at the roadside inns provided by the State. For the protection of road, there were at fixed intervals of not less than two miles either guard house with two watchmen each, or police station of greater or smaller calibre, according as the locality required.[95]

There were many cross roads intersecting all parts of the country. These roads were repaired by means of funds raised, in some places from the tolls of the public ferries, in others, from a portion of Government revenue collected from landlords. To illustrate one local example, the Kanpur district was intersected in every direction by un-metalled road, possible for traverse nine months in the year. The aggregate length of these roads in the district amounted to 500 miles in 1854 AD. In the district of Lahore 800 miles of new road had been laid down.[96] A portion of Bombay and Agra Trunk road i.e. from Bombay to Ahmednagar a distance of 158 miles having been earlier completed, the total length of this road which is 734 miles was also completed around 1854 AD.

Cross roads were made in many directions. The state of the roads in Madras Presidency varied according to the circumstances. While some of them were in the state of decay the others greatly facilitated the internal communication. The six years of improvements effected resulted in the formation and opening out of the roads and bridging of the streams. The 326 miles of road which was completed, planted, guarded by ditches and with few exceptions marked by mile stones made available 726 miles of traversable road without obstructions at all seasons. The completion of the repairs of the lines between the towns of Tanjore, Tivady, Tanjore and Cumbakonam rendered the chain of communication perfect by them.

Under the Bombay Presidency considerable progress had been made by 1854 AD in the improvement of internal communication. The construction of Bhor Ghat Road opened the communications along a line of country upon which even military stores had been previously carried on the backs of bullocks, or on coolies heads. The excellent road between Bombay and Poona and other from Bombay to Thana came to be superseded by the railway. The Phonda Ghat road from Vizier-doorg (Vizirdurg) to Kolhapur and Belgaum had thrown open the Southern Maratha country. The road from Bombay to Satara had been greatly improved. The completion of road from Sholapur to Nasik opened new lines of communication in that part of the country.

A journey in India was an affair of many months; and numerous were the perils which beset the path of the unprotected pedestrian. If a certain person was missing from his accustomed place, or does not reach the end of a journey his anxious relatives took it for granted that he had been bitten by a serpent, that the cholera had preyed upon his vitals, or a wild beast had eaten him up. Scores of men were murdered by the 'Thugs'(robbers). If the Thugs murdered a Company's sepoy they knew that the family of the sepoys would attribute his disappearance to ordinary death and the adjutant of his

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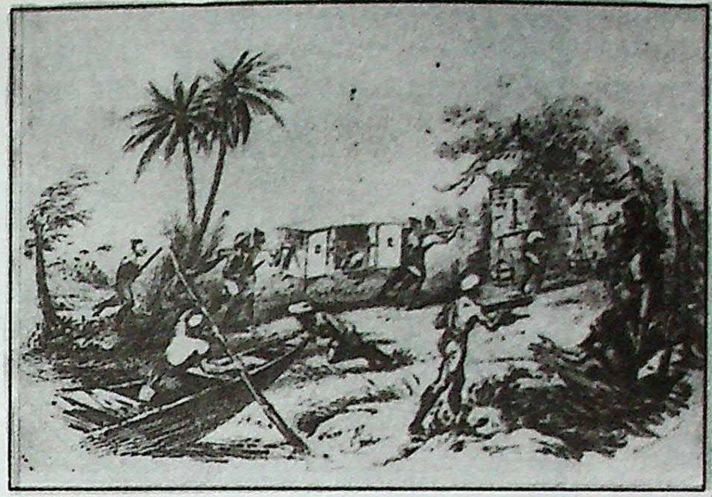
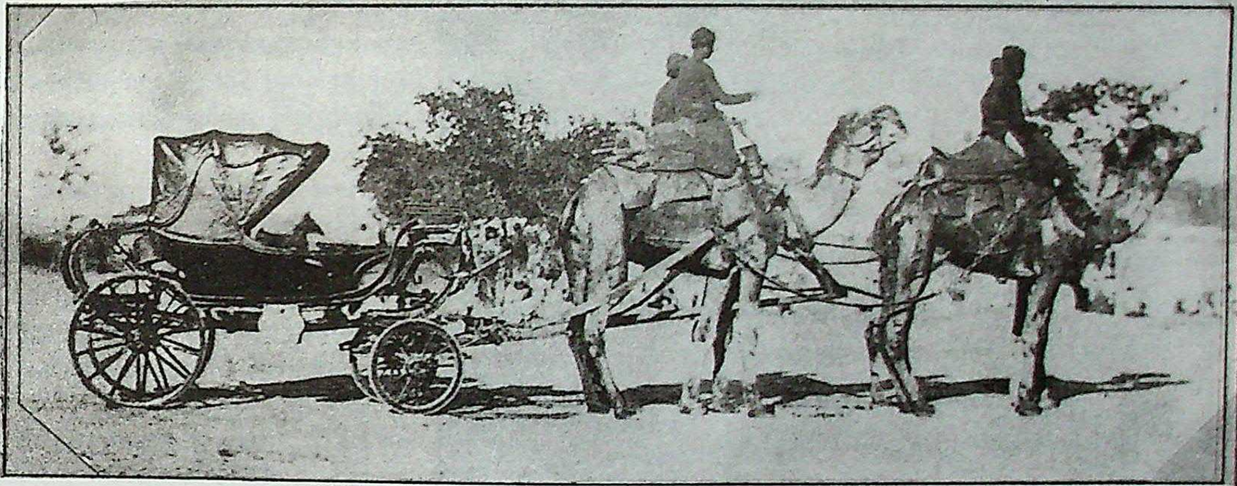
[95] Kaye, John William. The Admministration of East India Compamy. pp. 308, 309, 310.96. Ibid, p.310.

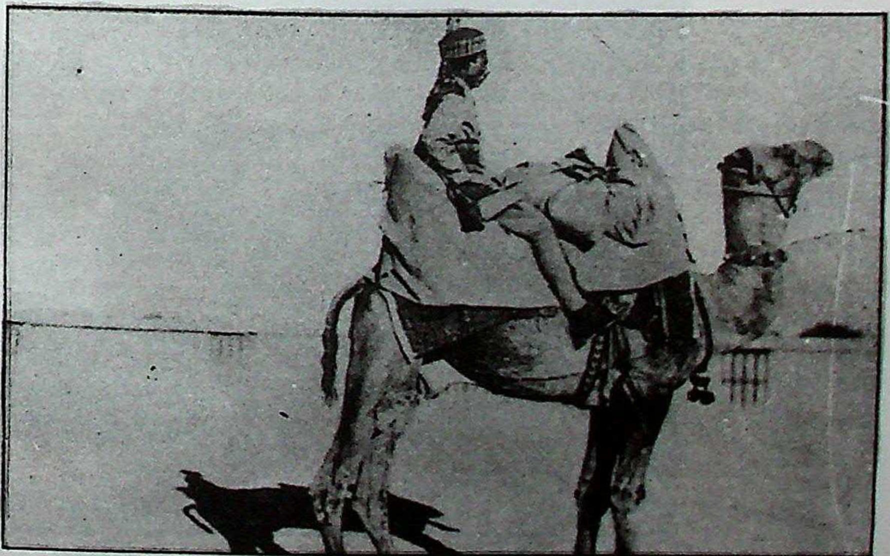
ILLUSTRATIONS



8. Dak Travelling in 1832 AD.

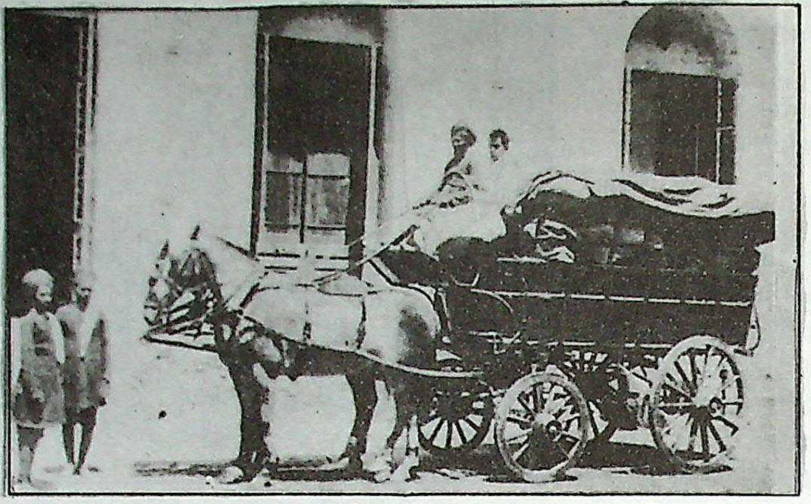


9. The Camel Cart in which Britishers travelled poste-haste from Lahore ot Peshawar - 1857 AD.

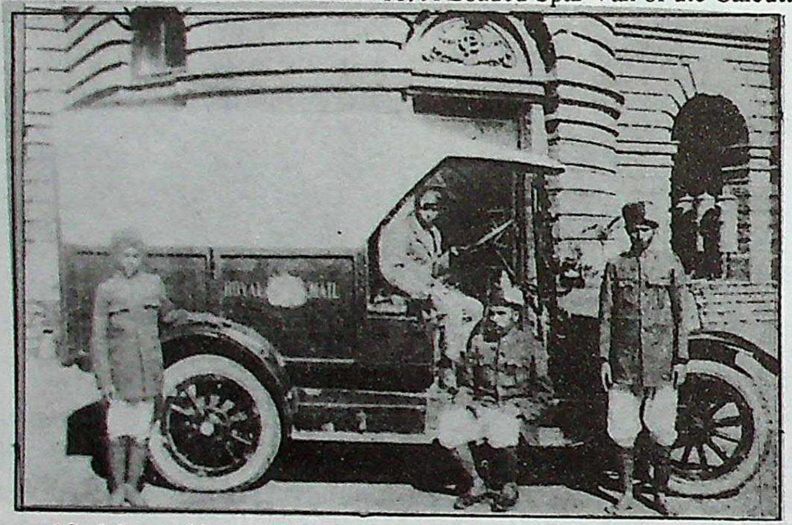


10. Camel Dak in Sind and Baluchistan

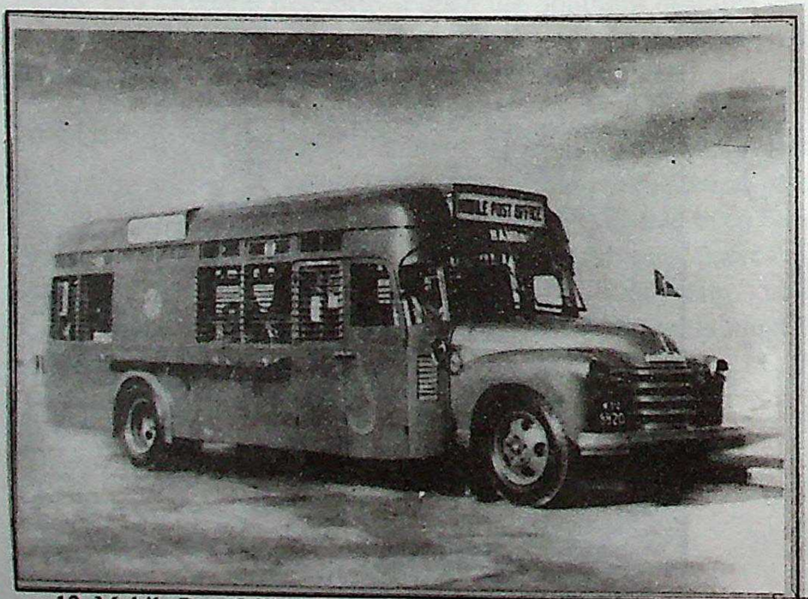
ILLUSTRATIONS



11. A Loaded Spar Van of the Calcutta General Post Office, 1912, AD.



12. Motor Van of the Calcutta Post Office, 1912 AD.



MOBILE POST OFFICE

13. Mobile Post Office Opened in Madras on 20th July 1953 AD.

regiment to desertion. If they murdered a confidential public or private servant, the Thugs knew that the absence of the man would be attributed to the dishonesty of the treasure bearer. These Thugs did not murder their neighbours. These Thug gangs (migratory murderers) used to set upon their journeys to remote areas. The Zamindar or headman, had an immediate interest in the success of the expedition. A certain amount of tribute or hush money was always paid to him, and the police officials in the same manner, and were bribed to silence.[97]

The mail runners travelled through the trackless forests, terrains, mountains infested with wild animals. Several of them lost their lives every year in the hands of tigers and robbers. The Banghy despatches were plundered.[98] The mail carts were attacked with poles and axes and mail-coach-men murdered.[99] (see Illustration 9 for Camel Cart).

Runners were supplied with spears, consisting of a bamboo shaft, with a metal spear head, to the base of which bells are attached. The mail bags are tied to the shaft, which is carried over the shoulder. The spear head is for self-defence, but when the post was in its infancy the bells were adopted as a concession to the superstition of the people, who believed that the bells would charm away evil spirits and wild animals. (see Illustration 7 for Post Runner).

The roads were kept in charge of district officers, who were held responsible for making proper arrangements for the protection of travellers and mails. The Zamindars in British territory and the native states in whose jurisdiction the mails were plundered were made to pay the losses.

Mounted road petrols, were adopted and where possible a foot guard was made to accompany the mails. The perpetrators of the robbery were captured and convicted. On certain occasions the Inspector General of Police was telegraphed and written to depute a police officer of superior rank to take up the enquiry. During 1934-35 AD, the number of highway robberies fell to 16 which included 4 cases of robbery in railway mail vans.[100] But the robbery was a continuing phenomenon with which the post office had to contend with varying figures between 20 to 75 in a year.[101]

The speed of mails when conveyed by runners was dependent on local circumstances. The maximum rate of 6 miles in an hour was generally attained in dry seasons and did not exceed five and a half miles in rainy season under favourable circumstances. The lines of road on which the Banghy parcels and passengers were carried by Mail cart, vans, or wheeled conveyances the speed was at the rate of 7 miles in an hour. On the horse back, however, the mails were conveyed at the maximum speed of 9-1/2 miles in dry seasons and 8 miles in the rainy seasons.[102]

The waterways also formed an important channel for conveyance of mails. Even before 1854 AD the Ganges had been covered with a flotilla of river steamers, for conveying the trade which sought passage upon its water. In the meantime, the channel of the Indus was becoming the great highway between Europe and the North Western provinces. Troops moved from England by that route.

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[97] Ibid, pp 361, 362, 363, 364. Mazumdar, M.L. Th Imperial post offices of British India, p.182.

[98] ARPO 1859-60, p.12 and ARPO 1864-65 pp.10, 11.

[99] ARPO 1876-77, p.13 and ARPO 1879-80, p.19.

[100] ARPO 1934-35, p.17.

[101] ARPO 1949-50, p.33.

[102] ARPO 1855-56 pp.5-6 and ARPO 1855-56, p.4.

route. Internal communication for transportation of mail had been considerably increased by completion of various navigable channels.[103]

The chief mode of conveyance of mails in 1854 AD was through runners and boat-lines over a distance of 24,467 1/2 miles. On mail cart (horse and camel) lines .the mail was carried over a distance of 6127 miles. Thus the total distance over which Imperial mails were carried amounted to 30,594 1/2 miles.[104] (see Table III. 8). The first line postal communications was, however, opened on the railways from 18 September 1854 AD in Bengal for receipt and despatch of mails at Calcutta General Post Office for Bally, Serampore, Chandernagar, Hooghly offices on both directions through the railway train.[105]

The use of bicycles for mail service was introduced in the North Western Provinces in 1870-71 AD.[106] During 1897-98 AD, the services of certain runners were replaced by the bicycle riders over good roads in Madras, Bombay provinces and Lahore town for short distance communication in the interior of the country and sub-urban areas and in the vicinity of large towns.[107]

The striking increase in these lines during the decade ending 1894-95 AD was due to the amalgamation of Kashmir State post office with 1200 miles of runners' lines. There is increase in the runner and boat lines during 1889-90 AD as the District Post lines to the tune of 33,502 miles were shown included in the Imperial runner and boat lines raising their figure to 82,874 miles.[108] The increase during the five years i.e. between 1889-90 AD to 1904-05 AD was mainly due to the constant opening of new Post Offices (Vide Table.III.8).[109]

On runner and boat lines, the difficulties during the rains were more serious. In a single night embanked roads were washed away and hundreds of square miles become an inland sea. A hill stream, that could be forded in 365 days in the year, became in half an hour a raging torrent that an elephant could not cross or turned into channels a few yards broad with a current in which no ferry boat would venture. These were ordinary occurrences in the rainy season. Often there was a storm-wave or a cyclone when exceptional damage was done, and the post offices suffered greatly.[110] (see Illustrations 14,15 and 19 for Runners).

The extension of railway mail line and mail motor lines till 1934-35 AD resulted in replacement of runner and boat lines and hence latter's decrease during the previous two decades. (Vide table. III.8) Further decrease in the runner and boat lines in 1947-48 AD was due to partition of the country and increase thereafter was due to amalgamation of the residuary princely postal organisations and opening of new lines on expansion of rural network of post offices.[111] (Vide table.III.8).

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103. House of Commons No: 145 of 1856, p.29.

104. ARPO 1855-56, p.4.

105. Mazumdar, M.L. The Imperial post office of British India, p.184. A separate despatch of packet mails in charge of mail guard was introduced from the Howrah office to Pandua by the evening train from 16th November, 1854 AD. This is the first record available showing the conveyance of mails by departmental mail guards on railways.

106. ARPO 1870-71, p.6.

107. ARPO 1897-98, p.5 and 1898-99, p.4, and ARPO 1899-1900, p.4.

108. ARPO 1892-93, ARPO 1894-95, p.4 ARPO 1899-1900, p.4.

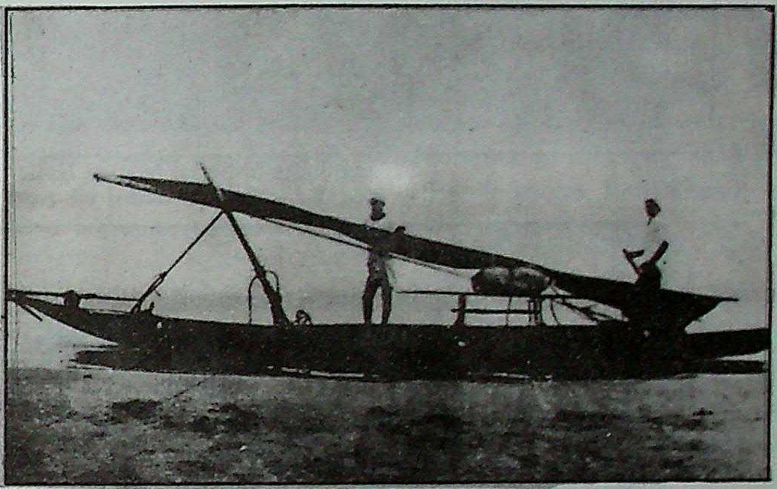
109. ARPO 1887-88, p.3.

110. ARPO 1900-01, pp.4-5, ARPO 1905-06, pp.5,. Calcutta Review Vol 88-89 of 1889, p.118.

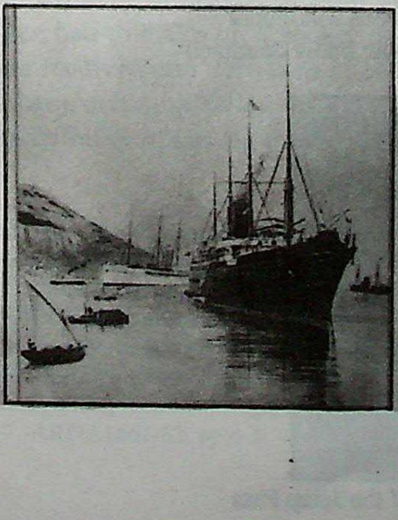
111. Home (Public) letters from Court 53 of 15th October, 1853, p.2729 and 2730. L'Union Postale, 1883, pp.29,32,33,34,165. In 1835 AD, the mails to India were for the first time conveyed by the direct route through the Mediterranean and over the Isthmus of Suez, and a line of communication subsequently extended to China and

ILLUSTRATIONS

14. Oriya Mail Runners crossing the Mahanady River

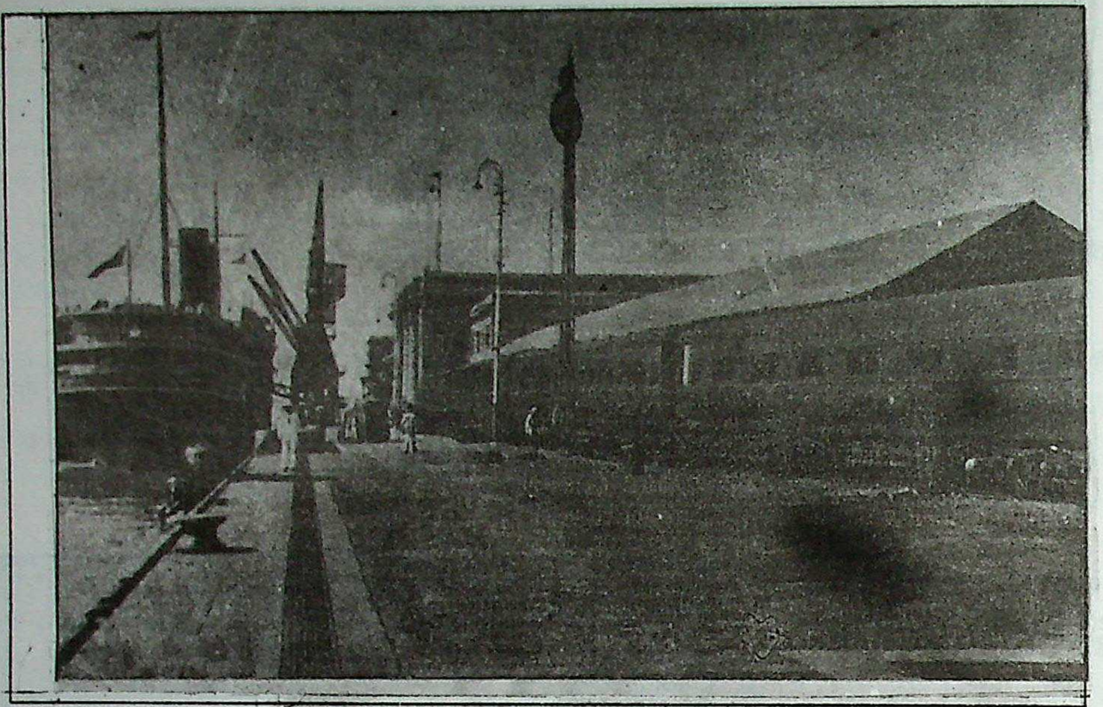


15. Mail Ferry Boat, Madras

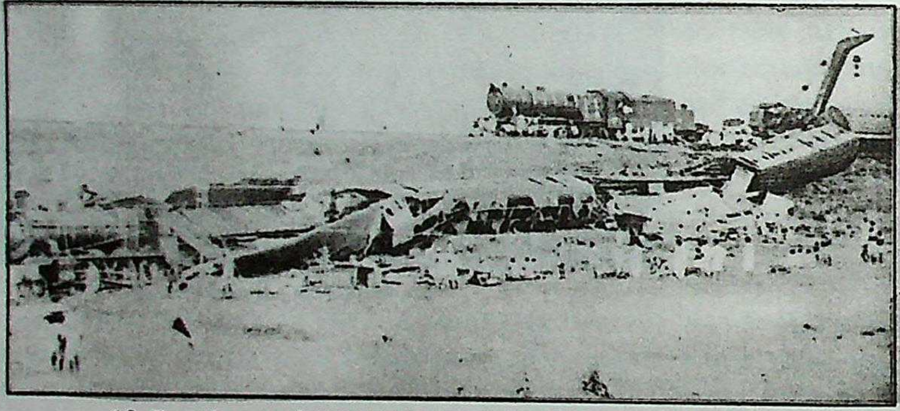


16. P. & O. Navigation Ship. P & O Vessel Caledona the fastest mail-carrying vessel to Bombay, India, 1894 AD.

ILLUSTRATIONS



17. The India Imperial Mail at Ballard Pier



18. Derailment of 5 UP E.I.R. Punjab Mail between Madhupur and Jhajha in June 1938 AD showing the mail van badly damaged

19. Runners coming down the Sikkim side of the Jelap Pass

Sorting and conveyance of Mail through Railways

The sorting arrangements up to the year 1853 AD were very crude. The closing of large number of packets for various stations was discontinued to reduce the weight of mails with opening of sorting office. Thus the Benaras office was made "Sorting Office" for all letters passing between the North Western (later known as United Provinces). Later, Indore was made the "Sorting office" between Bombay and the North Western provinces; Lahore between Punjab and Jullundhar for the subordinate offices in the Jullandhar Doab. The advent of railways in 1853 AD made a lot of difference to the postal services in India. Railways, besides speedy conveyance of mails facilitated transmission of increased weight of mails and sorting of mail in transit.

The pre-1857 AD risings in India against the British culminated in the Revolt of 1857 AD. The insurrections later spread by the first week of June in almost all the Upper Gangetic provinces and part of Central India.[112] As the Revolt spread, one of the first objects of the mutineers, after the murder of Europeans had been the interruption of the Company's (Imperial) mail and telecommunication.[113] Eventually a broad belt of the country extending from the foot of Himalayas to the Narmada, and from hence almost to the sea-coast South of Cuttack became unpassable for the Imperial mails, and the only line of communication available between Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Nagpur, the Punjab and North Western Provinces was by the coast line through Cuttack, Ganjam, Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. This state of affairs continued until the Commander-in-Chief moved to Fatehgarh, and the Communication was restored with Peshawar in February 1858 AD.[114] Similarly the Agra and Indore with all lines, and Post Offices in Bundelkhand, Rohilkhand, and the Doab were adversely affected.[115]

With the restoration of normalcy and the withdrawal of the European troops from India in 1860-61 AD and in view of the growing commercial correspondence called for further improvement in postal system.[116] Consequently, new sorting offices were opened. The procedures were amended. Each post office was in 1861 AD, furnished with a list showing different post offices for which separate mails were to be made up. It reduced the bulk of mails and saved time and labour in despatch of the mails to the respective post offices for delivery.[117]

For speedy delivery of postal articles Railway sorting was introduced.[118] The mail bags were carried in the guards' van if the weight was small, but when the mail was heavy a separate compartment in charge of mail guard was used. As there was no intermediate sorting every post office had to make up a packet or bag for every other post office in front, and these various packets were received and delivered at each station by the mail guard. The commencement of uninterrupted Railway communication on the long line between Bengal and the North Western provinces, and the impossibility of having the mails sorted, as before, at an intermediate office, necessitated in 1863 AD

Australia. The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, signed a contract and initiated a service in 1854 AD for running a fortnightly communication between Great Britain, India and China.

[112] Commerce and Industry, Consultation, No.36/38 of 9th April 1858, p.1. [113] Ibid, p.1.

[114] Commerce and Industry, Consultation No.25 of 12th March, 1858, p.3.

[115] Commerce and Industry, Consultation 36/38 of 9th April 1858, p.1.

[116] Home (Public) letters from court 1853, p.514, in 1853 AD the Benaras office was made the "Sorting Office" for all letters passing between Bengal and the North Western Provinces.

[117] ARPO 1861-62, pp.4-5. [118] ARPO 1863-64, p.2.

the introduction of Railway Sorting on a portion of line, viz, between Allahabad and Kanpur. The railway extended about 75 miles from Madras near the runner's route connecting Bellary, thus bringing a rail into use at Madras point. In 1864 AD, the rail reached Bangalore and the mail cart service connected thereafter to Poona via Belgaum. During 1864 AD the length of Postal lines traversed by the Railway were 2904 miles. The extension of railway facilitated conveyance of mails on railways.

In 1864 AD, mail was conveyed over certain distances through railway between the presidency towns of Bombay and Calcutta via Nagpur and Jabalpur route. And from Bombay to Poona covering a distance of 112-3/4 miles and therefrom up to Mughal Sarai, a distance of 919 miles by mail carts and horse dak and again by railway covering 533 miles to Howrah and reached Calcutta by boat and horse van.[119] Between the Presidency towns of Bombay and Madras it travelled 112-3/4 miles up to Poona wherefrom it went by Mail cart and horses to reach Tirupattur to catch railway to be at Madras.[120] Other details in terms of distances have been indicated. With the completion of railway lines by 1865 AD from Mughal Sarai to Allahabad and Chola to Delhi, the East India Railway extended up to Delhi with the exception of bridges over the Jamuna at Allahabad and at Delhi. The first Travelling Post Office (TPO) was established on 1st May 1864 AD under a Superintendent at Allahabad. In 1865 AD the TPO operated between Allahabad and Kanpur to cover a distance of railroad of 625 miles.[121] The railway travelling post office facilitated sorting of mail while in actual transit. The line was extended by 388 miles up to Delhi via Etawah in 1866 AD to accelerate the movement of mails for Ambala, Jullundur, Sind and Lahore.[122]

The supervision of the work of sorting of mails during transit by rail was at first confined to the ordinary inspecting staff of the Department. But the necessity of separate supervision became gradually apparent, a Superintendent of Railway Sorting, with a jurisdiction embracing the lines of the East India Railway was appointed in 1870 AD. His jurisdiction covered from Jhelum to Tuticorin, and from Calcutta to Bombay and Multan, during 1876-77 AD and extended to 5,342 miles. The extension of Railway lines connecting the interior areas of each presidency with a system of trunk line and junction of the Railway system of Bengal, Bombay and Punjab brought radical changes in the system of railway sorting.[123] Under this system when regular service was established in 1870 AD, all through mails passing between different provinces through Allahabad were disposed of by a separate sorting establishment, working on sections of the railway, converging at Allahabad under the "Superintendent, Frontier Travelling Post Office" with his headquarters at Allahabad.[124] He exercised supervision of sorting arrangements over 1370 miles of railway line.

One imperfection in the Travelling post office consisted in a system under which each set had to maintain their own register. This duty, which essentially is a stationary work was performed during intervals of rest by a travelling establishment; the records having to be written up once in three days were necessarily constantly in arrears, and delay occurred in receipting the returning documents, and in reply to references. Record offices were, therefore, established at convenient localities. Their duties were the performance of all purely office work connected with the Travelling post office. By 1837 AD this system was extended to every part of India where large travelling post offices existed.

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[119] Home (Post Office Branch) A.22-23 of 14 June 1864, p.3835. [120] Ibid. p.385.

[121] Financial Dept. Esp A.146 of Oct. 1865, p.3. The distance between the two sections was divided into 4 sections viz., Calcutta to Rampur Haut, therefrom to Jamalpur, Jamalpur to Buxar and Buxar to Allahabad.

[122] Financial, Expenditure, A.219 of March, 1866, p.1. [123] ARPO 1870-71, p.6. [124] ARPO 1869-70, p.4 & ARPO 1870-71, p.4. Mazumdar, M.L. ibid, p.180. The mail carts took the mails from Agra to Indore and then to Nargaum on the Nagpur line by horse carts near Bhusaval in 1864 AD The mail from Calcutta to Bombay was sent via Agra in 1864 AD the Agra mail via Khandwa and the Calcutta via Nagpur in 1867 AD by railways.

By 1873 AD sorting offices were established on railway lines with the object of supplying convenience in the transit mails and the disposal of local correspondence. Each railway line was divided into sections which were generally about 200 miles in extent. Each section had the position of a distinct sorting office, and was distinguished by locality and numbers. Parties of clerks worked on a section, each party was termed a set. The number of sets which worked on each section and the number of clerks (later known as sorters) comprising each set, were regulated by the amount of work to be performed. On the East Indian Railway, Frontier sections were formed specially for the disposal of mails passing from one province or provincial area to another. On slow trains and on railway line where travelling post offices had not been established, mails were transmitted through mail guards.[125]

In the matter of exchanging mails at small road side stations, where the train was not required to stop for the purpose of ordinary traffic, the difficulty was solved by the introduction of the apparatus for taking up and discharging mail bags with the train in motion. Its introduction in Bengal line of railway is the first instance of the utilisation of this convenience for postal purposes in India.

In 1870 AD the railway connected Madras with Bombay and hence the mails were again sent from Madras to North West by rail via Gooty to the Krishna river point by mail cart, to Gulbarga by runners, and then to Bombay by rail. By 1st March 1872 AD the whole mail route was connected by mail with the exception of crossing the Krishna river by dak boats. The over land express train from Madras to Bombay took about 50 hours. In the year the mail from Madras to Calcutta was also sent by rail via Kalyan, the railway junction close to Bombay. This land route took almost the same transit time as the weekly steamers by the Bay of Bengal.[126]

With the mail trains started running over the Thul Ghat by night, with effect from the 12th March 1875 AD, the departure from Bombay and arrival in the early morning in lieu of a night arrival at Calcutta was secured. Thus the delivery in Calcutta of letters posted in Bombay was considerably accelerated. This change brought the Calcutta and Bombay mails at different hours to the great junction station at Allahabad and necessitated the running of the two postal trains daily between that place and Lahore, the one to correspond with the East India Railway the other with the great Indian Peninsula Railway running. The state railways of princely states were also utilised for carriage of mails. Conveyance of the principal officers of the department, all the officials in the Railway Mail Service, and all postal servants travelling in the post office compartment was secured by payment of haulage on return vans fitted with sorting carriages.

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125. Indian Post Office Manual 1873, p.59. Martin, D.R. 'Indian Travelling Post Office' quoted in Mazumdar, ibid, p.180. In 1870 AD the railway was completed between Khandwa and Jabalpur, and Agra mails were sent to Bombay via Allahabad by the Frontier railway travelling post office. The Calcutta mail was sent to Bombay via Allahabad and Nagpur during the year.

126. ARPO, 1870-71, p,6.

The improvement was made in 1879 AD by opening of Railway Parcel Sorting Office on convenient places selected on the main lines, where parcels could be stopped in transit for the purpose of being sorted with a view to meeting the demand resulting from ever-growing number of post offices and the amount of business.[127]

As fresh railway lines are opened or additional trains are used for the carriage or sorting of mails, so did the Railway Mail Service develop. During the decade ending with 1884-85 AD there was an addition of 5,464 miles to the mileage over which sorting of mails was extended. Railway sorting was expensive, but the distances in India are so enormous that the saving of time in the receipt and despatch of mails which was effected by sorting in the train was considered to be of incalculable importance to the administration of the country and to the public.[128]

With the object of diminishing its yearly growing expenditure, the Railway Mail Service Branch of the Department was subjected to a careful reorganisation. As the sorting of letters in railway carriage was far more expensive than in a post office, stationary offices were established at large junction- railway stations where the intervals of time available between arrivals and departures of trains on main and branch lines are utilised for the sorting of correspondence. Similarly a large number of direct mail bags between large post offices were introduced so as to curtail the sorting work done in the Travelling Post Office. Direct mail bags were also introduced between post offices and main arterial lines of railway communication, which had rendered possible either a reduction in the number of sorting sections maintained on the side and less important railway lines, or a diminution in the space used by the post office on such lines. By the imposition of a late letter fee the abuse of posting letters in wholesale quantities in the vans provided for sorting operations were checked, while offices maintained by this Department at railway stations for railway mail service work had, to a large extent, been relieved of money order, registration, and other duties which properly belong to the local post office.[129]

At the instance of the post office, the mail trains between Calcutta and Simla and Bombay and Lahore were accelerated and a through service between Lucknow and Simla was established.[130]

The railway lines which covered 6138 1/2 miles increased to 11,632 and 18,463 miles in 1874-75 AD and 1884-85 AD respectively. Consequent upon the increase in the distance over which the mail was conveyed by railways there arose a need to revise the Sorting lists with a view to reducing establishments and costs of railway haulage. The Mail and Sorting lists were revised, got printed and supplied and new sorting offices were opened.[131]

Between 1876 AD to 1891 AD the mail routes opened on the railways were from Madras, Raichur and Bangalore to Sholapur, Hyderabad, Nellore, Guntakal, Vijaywada and Secundrabad. The mail lines between Trichinapoly to Tinnevelly and Tuticorin, Erode to Calicut, Tanjore to Madras via Cuddappah were also opened during the years 1884 AD to 1888 AD.[132]

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[127] ARPO, 1873-74, p.4. Mazumdar, ibid, p.274. [128] ARPO, 1882-83, p.21 and ARPO 1884-85, p.4.
[129] ARPO, 1886-87, pp.4,5. [130] ARPO, 1874-75, p.2. [131] ARPO 1887-88, p.34.
[132] Mazumdar, M.L. pp.182, 183 (Martin, D.R. Indian Travelling P.O.) The normal speed of train was between 7 and 10 miles an hour in the year 1854 AD. The acceleration of speed is noticed during eighties of 19th century.

With the constant growth of the Railway system in India, during 1890 AD, some special arrangements were made to improve through mail services by railways. Fast mail service was introduced between Calcutta, Bombay and Northern India and an important acceleration of mail effected between Madras and Central and Northern India.[133] During 1893 AD an improved mail service between Calcutta and Bombay via Jabbalpur and Nagpur was introduced for shortening the route by about 12 hours.[134] In the same year the mail train service between Madras and Tuticorin was accelerated by about 11 hours.[135]

With the gradual increase in the length of rail mail lines, the Railway Mail Service branch specialised in the technicalities of sorting.[136] The intricate sorting problems arising out of growth of railway system were weeded out by constant liaison with the railways.[137] .

With the opening of the last remaining section of the Bengal-Nagpur railway between Kolarghat and Howrah, the railway communication by the East coast route between Calcutta and Madras was complete. The transmission of mails between Bengal and South India was considerably accelerated in 1901 AD. This line practically expanded from Madras to Calcutta, a distance of more than thousand miles, and no less than 836 runners were thrown out of employment. During the same year, direct railway communication between Sind and Rajputana was also completed, besides, a new section was opened between Barmer and Shadipalli. By this through railway route mails were despatched between Karachi and Bombay on all days except on the days of departure of the direct mail steamers.[138] Owing to the revision of the time tables of the Oudh and Rohihand railway, transmission of mails from Punjab for place between Mughal Sarai and Calcutta was accelerated to the extent of about 12 hours, by the adoption of a new train service via Saharanpur, Lucknow and Mughal Sarai. A special train for the conveyance of the import foreign mails from Bombay to Madras was employed in 1904 AD and this conferred a distinct benefit on the Southern Presidency.[140] At the close of March 1909 AD the length of routes on which mails were carried was nearly half a million miles daily representing an annual travel of over 135 millions of miles.[141]

On 1st May 1911 AD the sorting work of Calcutta General Post Office was transferred to Railway Mail Service and a large sorting office, provided with up to date fittings, was opened at Howrah Station. In consequence of this transfer of work a new Division, called the Calcutta Sorting Division, was created and delay to important mails was eradicated. In 1912 AD, a new fast train service between Madras and Manmad was utilised for the Southern mails and for the North bound Punjab mail at Manmad. The arrangement effected a saving of 15 hours in the time of transit from Madras to Delhi and benefited an earlier delivery of correspondence.[142] The introduction of the Grand Trunk Express in 1929 AD, between Madras and Delhi, connected many remote areas of the South India into the nation's main mail net work.[143] By the end of 1929-30 AD there was maximum development in the railway mail lines. The length of Railway Mail line rose from 35,029 miles as on 17th August 1947 AD to 1,70,608 kms at close of 31st March 1984 AD. (Vide Table III.8).

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133. ARPO, 1890-91, p.1 134. ARPO, 1896-97, p.2. 135. ARPO, 1896-97, p.2.
136. Report of the Posts & Telegraphs Committee, 1924-25, p.21. 137. ARPO 1896-97, p.2.
138. ARPO 1900-01, p.2. 139. ARPO 1901-02, p.2. 140. ARPO 1904-05, p.1. 141. ARPO 1904-05, p.1.
142. ARPO 1911-12, p.2.
143. ARPO 1912-13, p.2. The postal motor services were established in the year 1912-13 AD in Rangoon and the other between Trichinopoly and Tirumayam a distance of 45 miles. ARPO 1929-30, p.5.

Conversion of Sorting Sections in to Transit Sections

Finding the sorting in running sections to be uneconomical a review was undertaken to examine the utility of RMS sorting sections. As a result of this review, 82 sorting sections considered redundant were converted in to transit sections during the year 1982-83 AD. By 31st March 1986 AD, the remaining 204 sorting sections were converted in to transit sections. Consequently sorting was withdrawn from running trains.[145]

As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 549 Railway Mail Service sorting offices and 443 Record offices in the country. Other important mode of conveyance of mails is by Motor Services and before the arrival of Motor Services, dependence was mainly on Mail Carts, Camel and the Horse lines.[146]

Mail cart, camel and Horse lines

Length of the mail carts, horses and camel lines which was 6,127 miles in 1854-55 AD was reduced to 4049 miles in the following four decades ending with 1884-85 AD as many of them were abolished on the opening of lines of Railways. Thereafter there had been material increase in the mail tonga line, which included horse and mail cart lines, chiefly in Burma and on the border of Baluchistan. The number of small mail tonga services constantly increased in Punjab also due to the conversion of certain tonga lines into Imperial postal lines. The total length of mail cart, tonga and horse lines increased from 4,049 in 1884- 85 AD to 5214 in 1894-95 and to 9009 in 1904-05 AD.[147] The increase in the mail carts, horses and camel lines from 9009 in 1904-05 AD to 11,490 in 1914-15 AD was due to the absorption of District post lines and conversion of certain tonga lines (horse vans) into Imperial mail lines. (Vide Table III.8). Thereafter there is gradual decrease in these mail lines due to replacement of horse vans etc.., by motor vehicles for conveyance of mails.[148] The mail cart, horse and camel lines were considerably reduced during the two decades ending with 1924-25 AD and 1934-35 AD. (Vide table III.7).

Mails Conveyed by Motor Services

The use of motor services for conveyance of mails began in India in 1912-13 AD.(For Loaded Spar Van and Motor Van see Illustration 11). At the close of 1914-15 AD the length of postal lines on this count was 356 miles. It extended to 5211 miles in 1924-25 AD and 20,694 miles in 1934-35 AD. This indicated a significant increase in the use of motor services for postal purposes. With the use of motor and railway, the steamer services, runners and boat lines and mail cart, horse and camel postal lines considerably decreased.[149] The length of different kinds of mail lines in use at the close of each decade are indicated in Table.III.8.

At the close of 1934-35 AD, the total length of the lines of postal communication was more than six times the equatorial circumference of the earth. Mails were carried by various means such as

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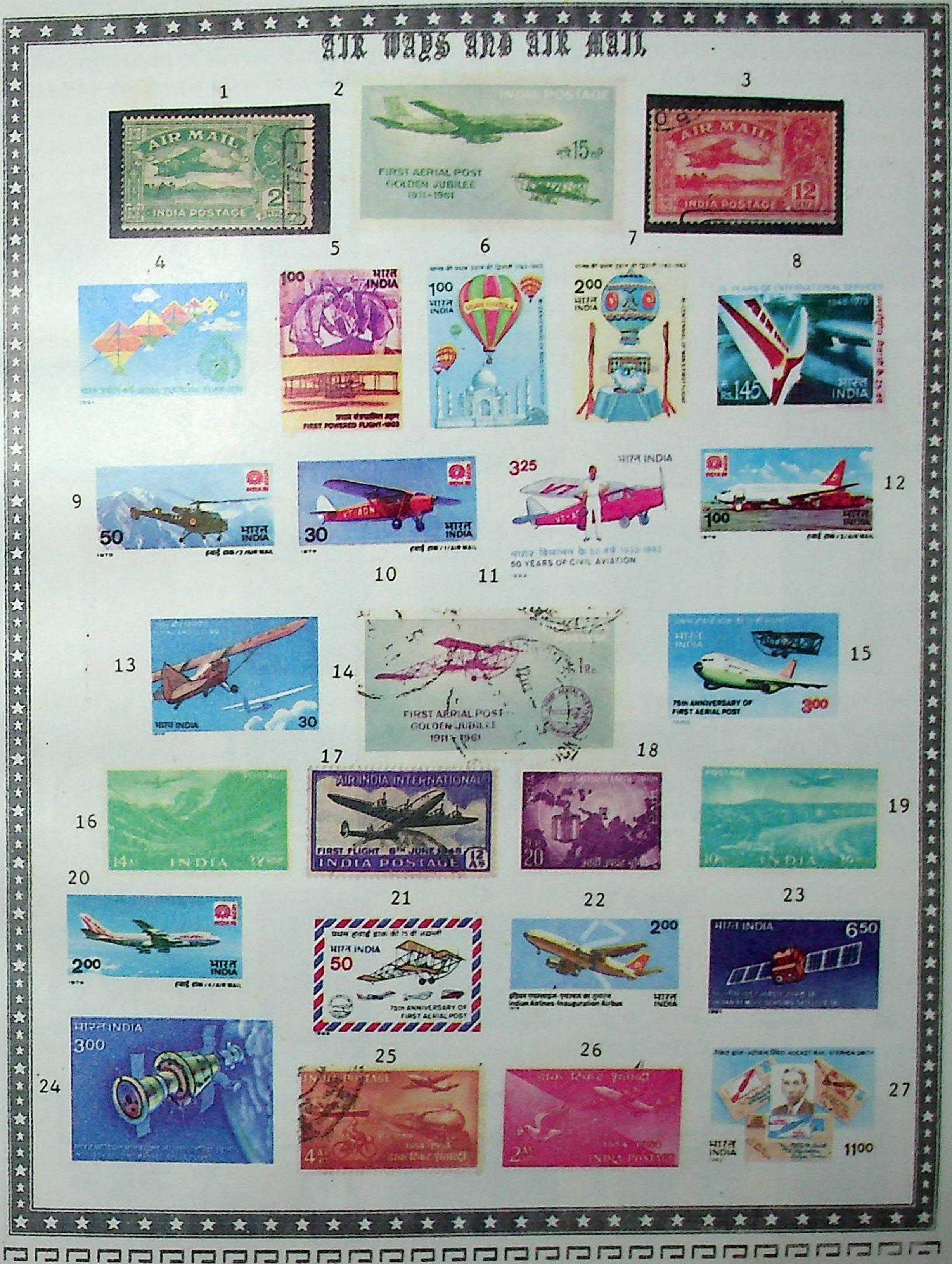
144. ARPO, 1982-83, p.5. 145. ARPO, 1983-84, p.8. 1985-86, p.6.
146. Book of Information 1993, p.19. 147. ARPO 1884-85, p.31. 148. ARPO, 1913-14, p.2.
149. Based on annual reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

PLATE 7



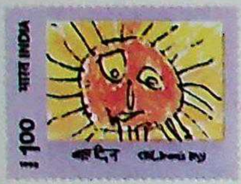
AIR WAYS AND AIR MAIL

1
AIR MAIL
INDIA POSTAGE
2
INDIA POSTAGE
15 nP
FIRST AERIAL POST
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1911-1961
3
AIR MAIL
INDIA POSTAGE
12
4
5
1.00
भारत INDIA
FIRST POWERED FLIGHT-1903
6
1.00
भारत INDIA
7
2.00
भारत INDIA
8
25 YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICES
1948-1973
Rs.1.45
भारत INDIA
9
50
भारत INDIA
1979
10
30
भारत INDIA
1979
11
3.25
भारत INDIA
50 YEARS OF CIVIL AVIATION
12
1.00
भारत INDIA
1979
13
भारत INDIA
30
14
FIRST AERIAL POST
GOLDEN JUBILEE
1911-1961
1 Re
15
भारत INDIA
75th ANNIVERSARY OF
FIRST AERIAL POST
3.00
16
INDIA
17
AIR INDIA INTERNATIONAL
FIRST FLIGHT 8th JUNE 1948
INDIA POSTAGE
12 AS
18
20
19
INDIA
20
2.00
भारत INDIA
1979
21
भारत INDIA
50
75th ANNIVERSARY OF
FIRST AERIAL POST
22
2.00
Indian Airlines Inauguration Airbus
भारत INDIA
23
भारत INDIA
6.50
24
भारत INDIA
3.00
25
INDIA POSTAGE
4 AS
26
2 AS
INDIA POSTAGE
27
भारत INDIA
11.00

PLATE 10

CHILDREN'S DAY

1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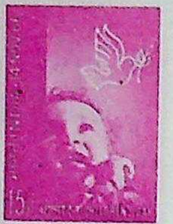
1.00
बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY

2



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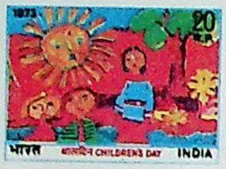
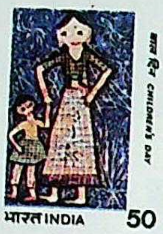

1973
20
भारत
बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY
INDIA

4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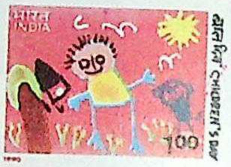
भारत INDIA
50

5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1.00

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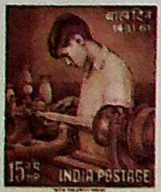
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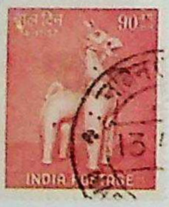
15 nP
INDIA POSTAGE

7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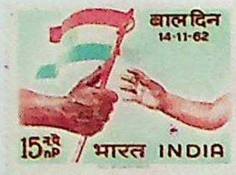
90
INDIA POSTAGE

8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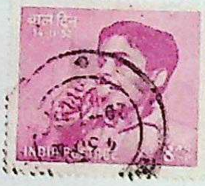
14-11-62
15 nP
भारत INDIA

9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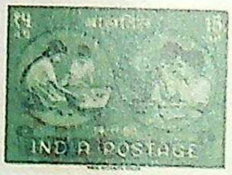
INDIA POSTAGE

10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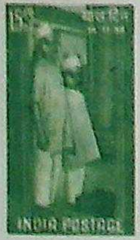
15
INDIA POSTAGE

11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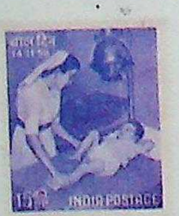
INDIA POSTAGE

12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INDIA POSTAGE

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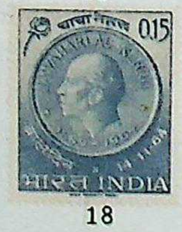
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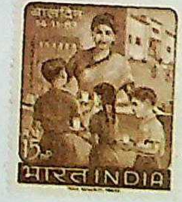
0.15
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU
भारत INDIA

14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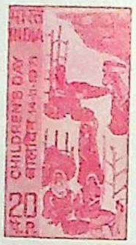
15
भारत INDIA

15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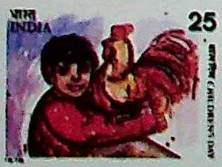
CHILDREN'S DAY
बाल दिन
20

16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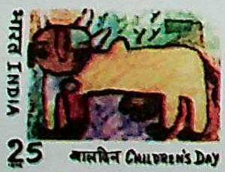
बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY

17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बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY

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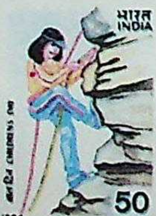
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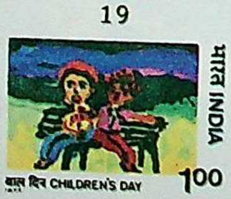
बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY
50

19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बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY
1.00

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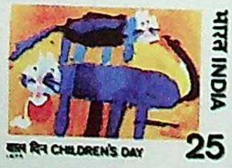
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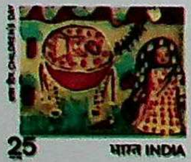
बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY
25

21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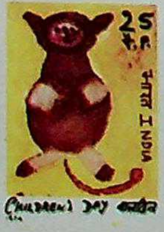
25
भारत INDIA

22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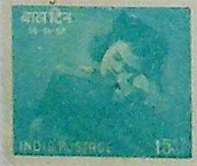
CHILDREN'S DAY बाल दिन

23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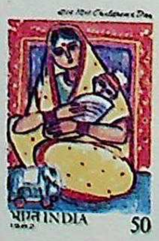
INDIA POSTAGE
15

24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भारत INDIA
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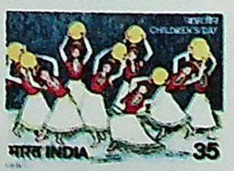
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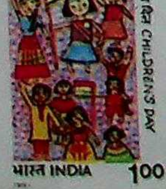
भारत INDIA
35

26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भारत INDIA
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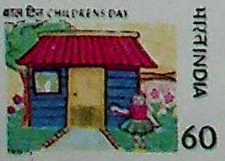
27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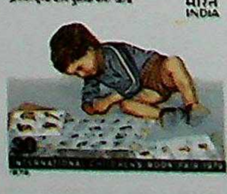
भारत INDIA
60

28



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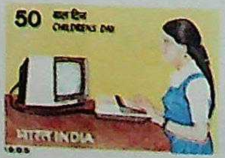
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बाल दिन CHILDREN'S DAY
भारत INDIA

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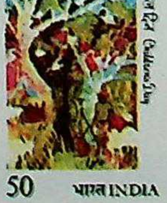
बाल दिन Children's Day
50
भारत INDIA

runners, railways, horses, sea and river-craft, mail carts, camels and tongas. But wherever possible it replaced gradually by motor transport. Besides serving the mofussil areas connected by metal roads, the motor transport mail lines mainly acted as feeders to the railway mail lines. Away from the railway and motor transport on metal road, the runner lines formed a major part of the postal lines. It continued to serve a large portion of villages in India.[150]

The separation of Burma from the Indian postal administration in 1927 AD reduced the distance covered by the postal lines from 1,67, 216 miles in 1934-35 AD to 1,58, 709 miles in 1937-38 AD resulting a total reduction of 8,445 miles. The total distance of mail lines of all classes excluding the air routes comprised of 1,69, 321 miles and 1,33, 845 miles as on 14th August, 1947 AD and at the close of 1947-48 AD.[151]

The first state owned Mail Motor Service was introduced in 1944 AD. It was extended to the cities of Bombay, Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Jabalpur and Amritsar in 1948 AD and gradually to other important cities. In addition to the carriage of mails between Post Offices, Railway Mail Service Offices, Railway stations and Air ports, the vehicles were also used for conveyance of postmen to distant beats, collection and conveyance of cash between various post offices and for allied purposes.[152]

Excluding the Air routes, the distance covered by all classes of lines over which mails were carried increased from 1,33,845 miles in 1947-48 AD to 2,01,677 miles in 1953-54 AD and to 14,71,889 kilometres in 1983 AD.[153]

Inland Air Mail Service

Conveyance of mails through planes further reduced the period of transit. India first experimented the inland mail service on 21st February 1911 AD when Mr. M. Picquet carried mails with him during a demonstration flight across the river Jumna from Allahabad to Naini.[154]

The rapid development of aeronautics during the first World War encouraged the commercial aviation. In course of time measures were taken to use it for domestic and Imperial needs. Regular Air Mail Service, was started in 1920 AD on an experimental basis between Bombay and Karachi by the Royal Air Force.[156] A state owned air mail line, began to operate between Delhi and Karachi in 1929 AD.[157] This line, later operated by the Indian Trans-continental Air-ways Limited was extended up to Calcutta.[158]

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[150] ARPO 1946-47, p.17.

[151] ARPO 1937-38, p.45, 1944-45, p.32 and 1947-48, p.11.

[152] ARPO 1946-47, p.17, ARPO 1948-49, p.17.

[153] ARPO 1953-54, p.28.

[154] ARPO 1910-11, pp.2,4 and L'Union Postale, April 1950, p.27. 6500 Letters were carried in the demonstration flight on 21st February 1911 AD.

[155] Foreign and Pol., Internal, B.No.457 of July 1920, p.1.

[156] ARPO 1929-30 AD P.5. The journey was performed in about 6 hours flying with a halt at Rajkot halfway between Karachi and Bombay, the flying speed usually above 100 miles per hour. An additional charge was made on correspondence, sent by this route but the service was not largely used for mails.

[157] ARPO 1929-30, p.2.

[158] L'Union Postale, April 1950, p.27.

The service between Karachi and Madras was introduced in 1932 AD with halting stations at Ahmedabad, Bombay and Bellary. From then to the out break of World War II was a period of development for the air mail service and a number of inland routes were opened up.[159]

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 AD put a stop to further schemes for development and only essential services were kept up during the war years.[160] But soon after the end of World War II, there was vast development in the growth of civil aviation and the aerodromes got fully equipped for night flying, which otherwise was so far operated only during day light.[161]

With a view to accelerating the sorting arrangements of air mails, Air sorting offices were opened at important air ports and blue letter boxes were installed at important post offices and Railway Mail Service Offices for air mail postings exclusively. For this special clearance was introduced in 1946-47 AD.[162]

In 1949 AD, the first Night Air Mail service was inaugurated at Nagpur. This service operated on two routes, Bombay-Nagpur-Calcutta, and Delhi-Nagpur-Madras. The two services were linked up at Nagpur. The Night Air Mail Service at the four terminal stations, provided a channel for aerial transmission of mails between the four corners of India greatly cutting down mail transit time. It enabled letters posted at such far off places as Srinagar, Trivandrum and Dibrugarh being delivered at any of the other stations, the next day.[163] The extent to which the new system had resulted in cutting down mail transit time is illustrated by examples given in the Table III.9.[164]

Under the "All-up scheme" introduced in 1949 AD, whenever air transmission was available and advantageous, all first class mails (i.e., letters, postcards, letter cards and money orders) were transported over the internal air system without any additional air-surcharge. This system greatly accelerated the transmission of mails, particularly of long distances. Over 5 million lbs. of mails were carried, under this scheme, by air within the country. This represented over 27 per cent of the bulk of first class mail posted in the country and received the benefit of air transmission.

Till 1949 AD i.e., shortly after independence all domestic air services were operating only during the day night hours. The postings of the day at the principal cities, which were mainly in the evening had, therefore, to be held over-night and disposed of by the morning air services leading to a detention of over 12 hours at the station of posting itself. Similarly, mails travelling long distances had to be detained overnight at one of the principal air centres like Bombay, Madras, Delhi and Calcutta as the entire extent of country could not be covered during day night hours. In some cases, where the mails had to go from one end of the country to the other, they had to be held overnight twice during the journey. This enforced and prolonged detention took away much of the advantage of the air transmission. Rafi Ahamed Kidwai, the then Minister of Communications and Civil Aviation recognised this fact and arranged the "Night Air Mail Service", an agency providing for the continuous circulation of mails from one end of the country to the other without any stoppage or detention on of the mail en route.[165]

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[159] ARPO 1933-34, p.8. In 1933 AD a weekly air mail service between Karachi and Calcutta with halting stations at Jodhpur, Delhi, Kanpur, and Allahabad and a daily mail and passenger service between Calcutta and Dacca were started. In 1934 AD the Madras Air Taxi service started a bi-weekly air mail service between Madras and Calcutta with halting stations at Gannavaram, Visakhapatnam and Puri but the service was discontinued from Ist April, 1934 AD.

[160] L'Union Postale, April 1950, p.27.

[161] Ibid, p.27 and ARPO 1945-46, p.14. In February 1946 AD an inland air mail service was introduced between Delhi and Lucknow via Rampur.

[162] ARPO 1946-47, p.20.

[163] ARPO 1948-49, p.48 and 1949-50, pp.2.

[164] Ibid.

The system of forwarding parcel by air on payment of an air surcharge was introduced in 1949 AD. It was extended on the Night Air Mail routes and to all air services operating within India in the same year.[166] The system of clearing mails by air, when the normal surface mail routes were interrupted continued to be widely adopted during the years followed.[167] In 1950 AD, registered newspapers were extended with the benefit of being air-lifted for and from Assam at concessional rate.[168] Money orders, insured letters and surcharged insured air parcels were given air transmission on the same basis as letters in 1951 AD.[169]

In the initial stages on introduction of the "All-up scheme", a certain amount of difficulty was experienced in compressing into a few hours of time the sorting work which used to be attended to in running trains while the mails were in transit. Due attention was paid to the revision of Due Mail and Sorting lists and allied arrangements to facilitate speedy movement of mails.

The India Post has to attend to the three dimensional problems in the sphere of delivery of mails. On the one side where it has to cater to the needs of the advanced metropolitan cities, the second being the mails of important urban centres and the third one being the mails of the rural areas.

With the conversion of sorting sections into transit sections, the mails for rural areas which could have been disposed of to a greater extent en route in the sorting sections are now carried to the District mail offices where from it has to flow again to reach its destiny. Thereby the mails for both the rural and urban sector is being subjected to delays. The reverse decision to have the age- old systematised sorting sections is a matter deserving reconsideration in this country of vast distances. To remove the bottlenecks in the flow of mails between Delhi and State capitals/headquarters of Union territories, mail arrangements were strengthened in 1994 AD. To accelerate disposal of mails between Metro cities, Metro channel has been opened.[170]

Metro Channel

The mails for metropolitan cities alone is roughly estimated to constitute 30% of the total quantum of mail handled. With a view to improving the mail transmission/delivery network between each pair of metro cities, Metro mail network known as "Metro Channel" has been introduced from 2nd April 1994 AD. Through this channel Metro mails of six metro cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bangalore are linked.[170a]

Through this channel the pin-coded inter-metro letters are brought to the Letter Box Clearance Concentration Centres where from they pass through the local outward mail office and local Air

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165. ARPO 1949-50, pp.1,2 and Dak Tar, May 1961, pp.18, 19.
166. Parliamentary Debates, 15 February 1951, p.1447. 167. ARPO 1949-50, p.22. 168. ARPO 1950-51, p.2
169. ARPO 1951-52, p.11. 170. Director General's Circular No 7 dated 01st April, 1994.
170 (a). The Hindustan Times dated 16th December, 1994, p.10.

TMO. On receipt at the Destination TMO, they are conveyed to the delivery offices of destination as a separate mail. Blue colour letter boxes are planted for collection of inter-Metro letters and distinctive blue bags are used during transmission.[170b]

Intra-Metro mails, however, continue to be collected through green letter boxes and are now transmitted to the specially designated local mail sorting centres through either dedicated or contractual transport. The mail offices prepare direct bags for all the town delivery offices in the city.

The letters posted in the country's capital, New Delhi for different state capitals and those posted in state capitals for different Metropolitan cities of the country constitute a significant segment of the mail, both in terms of quantity and time sensitivity. "Rajdhani Channel" to link the state capitals with the nation's capital was, therefore, created.

Rajdhani Channel

Rajdhani Channel was introduced between Delhi and six capitals of Northern India namely, Chandigarh, Simla, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Bhopal with effect from 16th May 1994 AD. Under this scheme the mail for Delhi and state capitals and vice versa posted in ordinary letter boxes is segregated and consigned in a separate bag for the state capitals and from the state capitals to Delhi through local Air TMOs. Bright yellow colour letter boxes are installed at prominent post offices for the purpose. After the successful introduction of Rajdhani Channel Scheme in the said six State Capitals of the country , nine other state capitals were linked in Rajdhani channel from 1st July 1994 AD. These are Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Patna, Shillong, Srinagar, Trivandrum, Agarthala, Gangtok and Panaji. [171]

Another step ahead took in this direction is to integrate the state capitals of the country in Rajdhani-cum-Metro link. The post offices in the state capitals segregate the mails for Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Hyderabad and Banglore in five different bundles and send them to Delhi in their bag for Rajdhani channel. These bundles are on receipt included in the respective bags for different Metros by Delhi and are despatched in the evening flight on the same day. Detailed sorting of these mails is done only in the destination Metro Mail Centre at night. [172]

In its quest to meet the requirements of the ever growing correspondence of the business community "Business Channel" is established.

170(b). ibid, p.10. The letters through Metro Channel are aimed to be delivered within 24 hours, the rest within 48 hours.

171. Director General's Circular No 9 dated 01st June, 1994. The six state capitals namely Chandigarh, Shimla, Jaipur, Ahmedabad and Bhopal were given the Rajdhani-cum- Metro linkage with effect from 1st July 1994 AD. The Post offices in these cities segregate the mails of Bombay Town Delivery (TD), Calcutta TD, Madras TD, Hyderabad TD and Bangalore TD along with the Mails of Rajdhani. These TD bundles with specially designed blue striped check slip are sent in Rajdhani Bag to Delhi where these reach in the morning. Transit Mail Office, Palam in Delhi acts as the hub-centre. They assign Metro TD bundles received from different state capitals in respective Metro channel bags, which are despatched by the evening flights. The TD bundles are sorted in detail only at the point of destination during the following night and are connected with next day's morning delivery.

172. Director General's Circular No 01st August, 1994.

Business Channel

The Business Channel commenced with effect from 1st July 1994 AD. Its functions are restricted between the six Metros namely, Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore and Hyderabad. It is a separate processing channel for business mail called the "Business Channel". Comprising of first class unregistered letter mail articles posted by corporate institutions at the counter of a post office (or mail office as the case may be). It also includes such articles posted by Government and Semi-Government Institutions.

For conveyance of Registered articles as a separate stream in separate bags independenty, Registration Channel was opened in 1994 AD.

Registration Channel

Registration Channel is created by formation of Independent Registration sets in Mail Offices and by arranging direct exchange of registered bags between one Mail Office and another Mail Office. This has also facilitated in ensuring smoother, faster and unhindered flow of unregistered mail which has a different kind of priority as compared to registered mail.

The improvements brought in the conveyance of the mail by utilising and connecting every means of speedy conveyance developed in the country from time to time resulted in quicker delivery of mails.

With its well-knit net-work of mail lines over the length and breadth of the country at its command, the Post Office has expanded its network of post offices and letter boxes and strengthened its delivery establishment in an endeavour to reach the masses as quickly as possible. The India Post gradually emerged into a commercial organisation fit to undertake and manage numerous postal and non-postal functions.

------------------------------ *Chapter Four* --------------------------

FUNCTIONAL GROWTH OF INDIA POST

Communications are the essential fore-runners of the modern age. The postal reforms of 1854 AD made it easier and possible to communicate with each other over the distances more quickly and frequently. The growing needs of the general public, the Government, and other specialised sections such as the commercial community etc., necessitated the post office to introduce new functions and prompted to also undertake certain non-postal functions on an agency basis.

Growth of Postal Functions

The Post Office Act of 1854 AD established a uniform rate of postage for letters to any distance in the British East India Company's territories. The other branches of the postal service covered under such uniform postage rates were the news-papers and books. The parcel post was, however, continued to be carried and charged by weight and distance criteria.

Letter Mail or Embossed Envelopes

In view of different considerations the form of letters had undergone changes in material used. Its form had been determined by the prevalent custom, business requirements and mode of conveyance. Embossed envelopes were introduced in 1856 AD.[1]

From 1854 AD to 1869 AD the lowest rate of inland letter postage was anna for tola, the next charge was 1 anna for tola for weights above tola had prescribed progressive rate.[2]

The deep routed native habit of using for the purposes of the post, the flimsiest of paper and of folding it so minutely as to leave no room for the directions created further confusion by the impressions of postmarks on the address itself, for want of space. Result being the enlargement in 1869 AD of the unit of letter weight from one quarter to one half of a tola.[3] But the measure was not followed by any improvement in the description of paper or size of envelope used by the native public. To induce them to use covers of a proper size and texture, envelopes embossed with half-anna and with one-anna stamps were offered in July 1873 AD for sale at the value of the stamps they bore.[4] (see Illustrations 23 to 26 for the envelopes in use).

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[1] L'Union Postale, 1876, p.149. The ancients wrote on wax-tablets, and palm-leaves which were fastened together by means of rings. The letter was, to some extent a book. Then it took the shape of a roll, which was in use up to the middle ages. Afterwards letters were folded and put in to the more convenient envelopes. Riazat Hussain in article, "Postal Services under Nizam's Rule in Hyderabad, - Dak Tar, December, 1975, p.13.

[2] Act, No.XVII of 1854, Section VI and Financial Dept., Sep. Revenue, Consultation No.7/8 of 1858, p.1. Also see Home (Public) letters from Court No.63 of 1855, p.7.

[3] Legislative papers of Act XV-XXXIV of 1854, p.149 & AR 1873-74, p.2.

A review of the cost of envelope carried out in 1890 AD indicated the half-anna rate as sufficiently remunerative.[5] This minimum rate continued to be in force till 1905 AD when it was raised to 3/4 tola. The minimum rate of the postage remained the same but the weight was further raised to 1 tola in 1907 AD.[6]

For financial viability, the postage rate was altered from half-anna for one tola to half-anna for half tola and 9 pies for one tola in 1921 AD.[7] The initial rates of postage were again altered in 1922 AD from 1/2 anna for 1/2 tola to one anna for 2 1/2 tolas, with one anna for every additional 2 1/2 tolas.[8] It is thus seen that the initial minimum weight allowed was 3/4 tola and 1 tola. It was again reduced to 1/2 tola in 1921 AD and continued to be the same thereafter. The initial minimum weight was again increased to 2 1/2 tolas by revising the minimum postage rate from one anna to 1 1/4 anna in 1931 AD.[9] The initial minimum weight was again reduced to 1/2 tola in 1934 AD and the minimum postage rate was reverted to 1 anna.[10]

The increase in the minimum postage rates in 1922 AD and 1931 AD resulted in the decrease of letter traffic. Thus the Department took it as an invariable rule that however much the initial letter weight was reduced the public would accommodate themselves to it. Hence keeping the initial weight of 1/2 tola constant, the rates of minimum postage were only altered form 1 anna to 1 1/4 anna, 1 1/2 anna and 2 annas in 1940 AD, 1942 AD and 1949 AD respectively. Keeping the initial weight of 15 grams constant, the rates of minimum postage were altered from 13 paise in April 1957 AD to 15 paise and 20 paise in September 1957 AD and 1968 AD respectively; and thereafter keeping the 10 grams weight as constant the minimum rate was altered from 25 paise in 1974 AD to 30 paise, 35 paise, 50 paise, and 60 paise in 1979 AD, 1980 AD, 1982 AD., and 1987 A.D respectively. Stationery charge of 5 paise and 15 paise were charged for envelopes from 1983 AD to 1986 AD and 1988 AD to 1990 AD respectively with effect from 11th June 1990 AD the rate for the minimum weight of 20 grams is Rs. 1.[12]

The new Greetings Envelopes with message, "Greetings" and "Congratulations" with a price of 250 paise each were pressed into domestic service on 15th November 1993 AD.[12a]

The discussion on letters will be incomplete without the mention of "Letter Bomb" menace which created many anxious moments for the Postal Departments all over the world in 1972 AD. In India on 6th November, 1972 AD in a sorting office in Colaba, Bombay, during the course of sorting of mails a sorter happened to handle a slightly thicker packet. And as often happens with such odd things it exploded. Fortunately the sorter narrowly escaped. Consternation was bound to occur. The scare spread to other towns. Bombay

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4. ARPO 1873-74, p.2. 5. Finance and Commerce, Sep. Revenue, R. Pro. 164/165 of March 1890, p.1.
6. ARPO 1905-06, p.1. ARPO 1907-08, p.2. 7. ARPO 1921-22, p.1. 8. ARPO 1922-23, p.3, ARPO 1949-50, p.6.
9. ARPO 1931-32, p.10. ARPO 1921-22, p.2. ARPO 1934-35, p.5. and Parliamentary Debates of 30th March, 1950, p.1169. 10 ARPO 1940-41, p.2, 1942-43, p.2. 11. ARPO 1960-61 p.8.
12. Historical Schedule of Postal Rates, Department of Posts, corrected up to 1994. 12(a). Department of Posts, communication No 40-2/93-Phil. dated 28th October 1993.

witnessed 44 letter bombs and Delhi 8. Even the comparatively smaller town of Varanasi did not escape attention of the perpetrators. The letter bomb was developed in many forms. Some explode while the letter is being opened yet others when exposed to air. Some bombs contain metals also.

The Department took precautionary steps and instructed post offices to be vigilant while handling mails, especially foreign. The scare of the man-killer died with the passage of time.[13] The real factors governing revenue of the Post Office were the initial letter scales and the postcards.[14] Traffic trend of letters, postcards and letter cards is indicated in Table IV.1.

Postcards

The ordinary form of letter did not permit the simplicity and brevity which were sufficient for a great many communications. Simplicity - because the choice and folding of paper, the use of the envelope, the affixing of stamp etc., were troublesome, and brevity - because in a formal letter politeness did not allow the communication being restricted to the bare statement of the object of the writer. Hence a convenient means of episotolary communication the postcard came to be invented.(see Illustrations 27 to 33 for Postcards).

The postcard bearing embossed stamps of 1/4 anna was pressed into domestic service in India with effect from the 1st of July 1879 AD. On the front or stamped side of the card only the address was to be written and it could also be registered.

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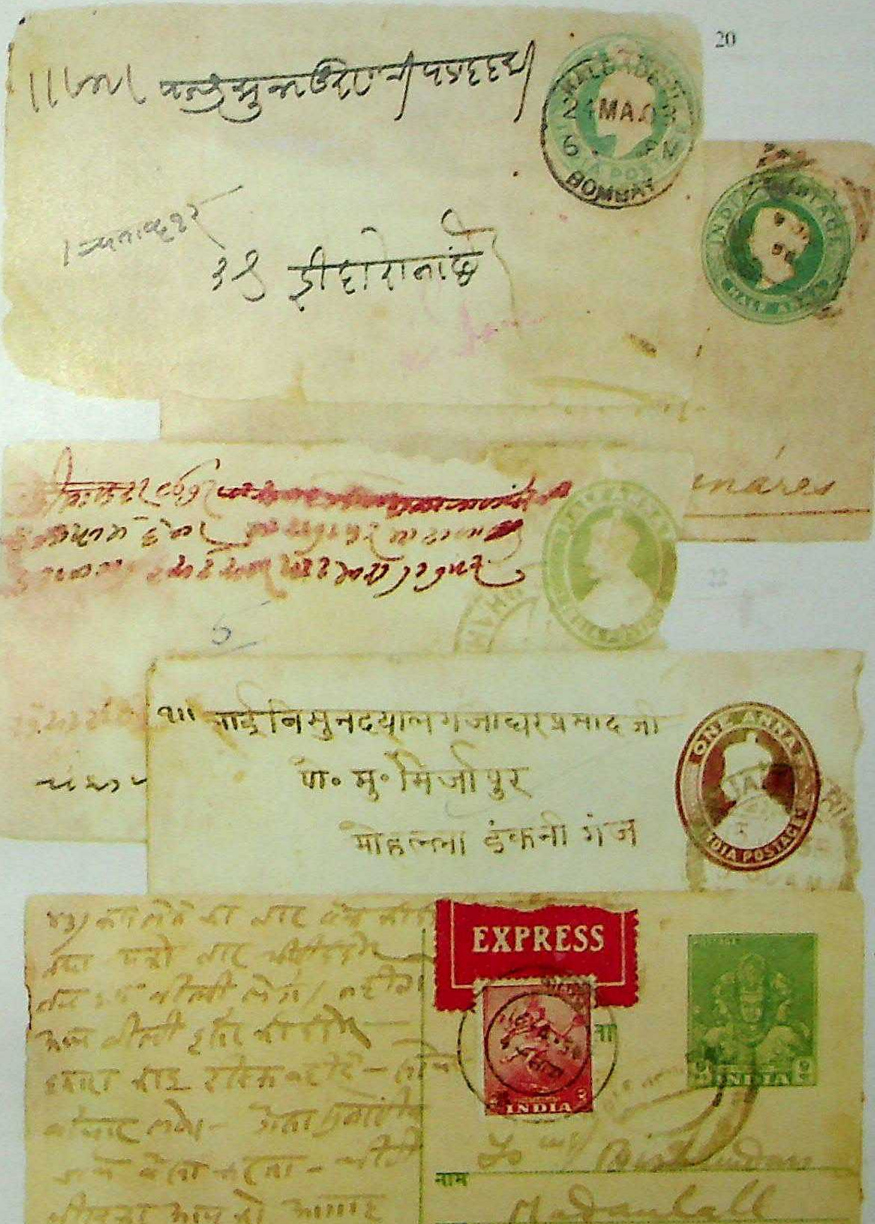
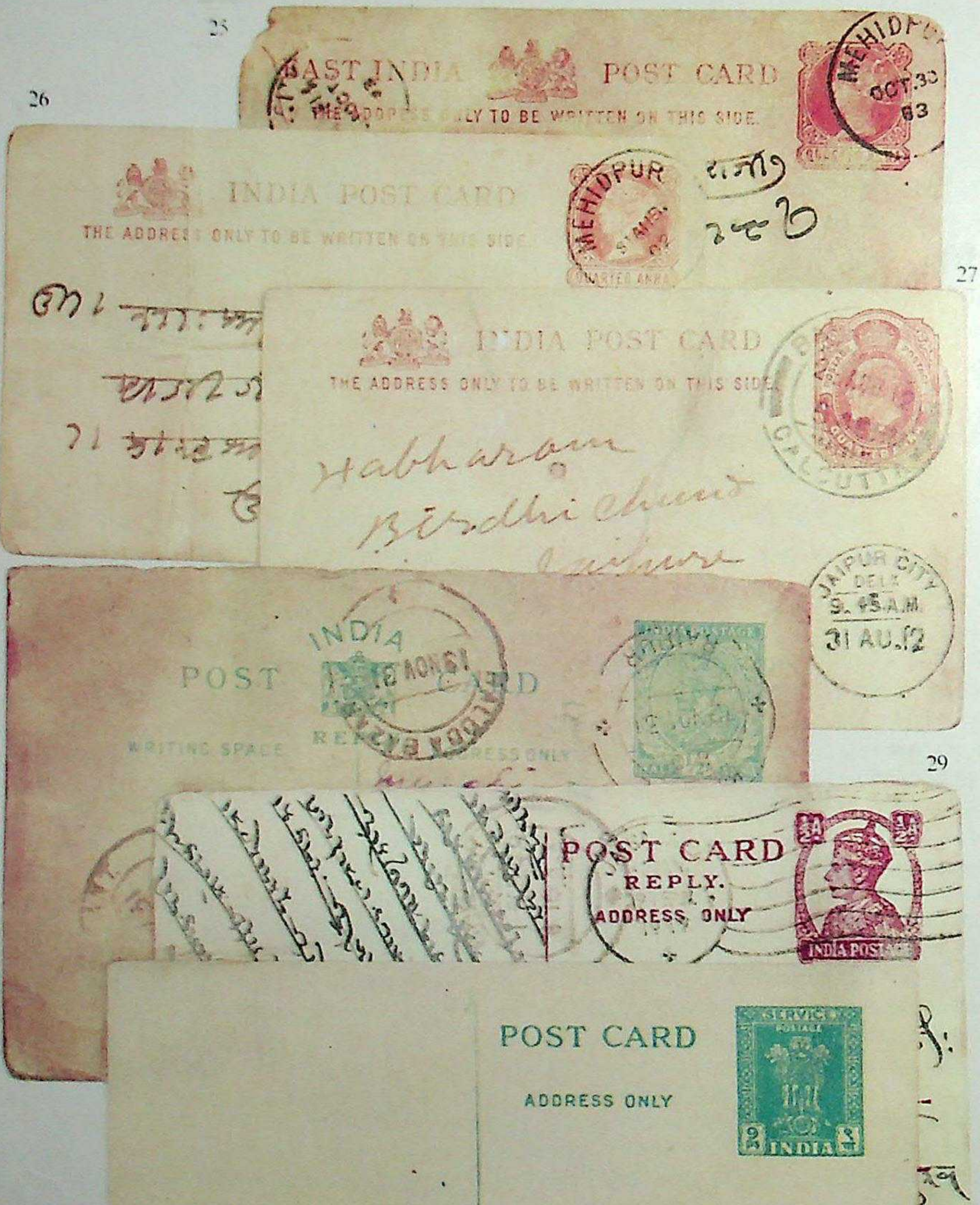
[13] Dak Tar, November, 1972, p.1. This infernal device has a history. The letter bomb was first developed during the Second World War and used by the Germans against the secret agents of the Allied Forces. Later in 1947 AD an attempt was made by this force on the life of Truman, the President of U.S.A. In 1972 AD the first news of a death from the man killer came from London, the victim was an Israel Diplomat. And the incident followed by explosion and detection of similar bombs in other countries. Wrapped in light weight card-board, a letter-bomb is about 5 inch long with activated firing pins spring. The strip of plastic is a mixture that can be written into any shape and made to look like a 'butter paper'. It can also be written on or rolled until denoted. The entire thing can weigh less than an ounce and be 1/8 inch thick. Its lethal range is 3 feet. The insertion of this device in an envelope makes it lethal. When the envelope is opened, the pressure is released and the bomb explodes. Its mechanism is so sensitive the pressure is released and the bomb explodes. Its mechanism is so sensitive that stamps are required to be affixed prior to sealing because even the slightest pressure can act as a trigger. Being highly sophisticated, sometime it is difficult to detect a letter-bomb, and the error in the judgment can prove fatal. Detecting such sophisticated device, is a difficult task. It is rather impossible to screen every letter through an X-Ray machine. Besides, the machine sometime does not reflect the 'tiny' bomb wrapped like the 'butter paper'. And as for a metal detector, it can be useful only when a letter bomb is found to contain some metal. Some persons hold the view that a specially trained dog can sniff the explosives, however cleverly concealed. According to Mr.G.Vasiliev, a Soviet researcher. dogs can detect even metals like gold, silver, and platinum. 'An Alsatian dog is more suitable for the purpose, adds Mr.Vasiliev.

[14] L'Union Postale, 1876, p.150. Mr. Stephen, the Postmaster General of German Empire, submitted to the delegates of the General Postal Administration who attended a postal conference at Carlsrushe in 1865 AD a memorial in which he recommended the introduction of a new kind of letter, in the shape of an "open post-card" ("offences post-biatt"), bearing on one side the name and address of the addressee, and on the other the written communication. the postage on such cards was to be fixed as low as possible, without regard to distance. This project was not carried out at that time for the main reason that it was apprehended that it would occasion to great a decrease in the revenue. The next suggestion for carrying out this proposal was not made till 1869 AD and emanated from Dr. Emanuel Herman of Vienna. Herman suggested this plan to the Austrian Post Office in an article published in the "Neue Freie Presse" at Vienna. The Austrian Administration acknowledging

ILLUSTRATIONS


20
BOMBAY
21
Benares
22
23
ONE ANNA
INDIA POSTAGE
पा० मु० मिर्जापुर
मोहल्ला डंकनी गंज
EXPRESS
INDIA
नाम
पता
डाकखाना
जिला
Madanlall
KANPUR
24

ILLUSTRATIONS


25
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EAST INDIA POST CARD
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
MEHIDPUR
OCT.30
83
INDIA POST CARD
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE
INDIA POST CARD
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
CALCUTTA
JAIPUR CITY
DELY.
9.45 A.M.
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POST CARD
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REPLY
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POST CARD
REPLY.
ADDRESS ONLY
INDIA POSTAGE
POST CARD
ADDRESS ONLY
SERVICE
INDIA

The one-quarter anna inland postcard, sold at its face value, gave a lower rate of postage facility. The Indian postcard was the cheapest in the world.[16] Service postcards for use by government officials within the limits of India were also made generally available with effect from 1st April 1880 AD.[17]

The size of private post cards for use by the inland post was raised to 5 1/2 inches in length and 3 1/2 inches in breadth which is substantially the maximum size allowed by the rules of the Universal Postal Union.[18] There was constant growth in the use of postcards of private manufacture, especially since the limits of size were enlarged for the purpose of advertising.[19] From 1st April 1905 AD the regulations relating to postcards of private manufacture were revised so as to allow the public to use part of the address side for written communication.[20]

In 1907 AD the material of the inland official postcard was improved.[21] During the year 1935-36 AD the mode of printing the stamp and other indications on the address side of the postcards manufactured and sold by the department was charged with the result that the space on the address side of the embossed post card available to the public for writing communications was increased from 5.3 square inches to 9.6 square inches.[22]

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the importance of this proposition for the improvement of postal relation, received it favourably, and carried it into execution, in 1869 AD The Postal Administration of North German Confederation adopted it in 1870 AD and in the United Kingdom in 1870 AD.

[15] L'Union Postale, 1876, pp.150-51. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.546-550 of Dec. 1878, p.2 and ARPO 1878-79, p.1. Brochure dated 02 July 1979 issued by the Department of Post India. The convention of Paris (International postal treaty signed on 1st June 1878 AD, by the member countries of the Universal Postal Union, were required to introduce the international postcard and thus the British were forced to introduce the postcard into the domestic service of India. Designing and printing of postcard was done by Messrs Thomas De La Rue & Co. of London. They were of two denominations, the "Quarter Anna" card was for domestic use and the 1 1/2 Annas" one meant for the countries affiliated to the Universal Postal Union.

The first postcards were printed upon medium light buff or straw card. The Quarter Anna Card had inscription "East India Post Card" with coat-of-arms of Great Britain in between and the stamp with the diamond head of Queen Victoria in the right upper corner printed in red brown. The foreign postcard carried the inscription "Universal Postal Union" in English and French at the top. The bilingual inscriptions of " British India" and "Postcard", below the top line, were separated by the British coat-of-arms with stamp in the right hand top corner. The stamp and the inscriptions were in blue. Both the cards carried the legend "the address only to be written on this side" on the obverse. During its long history, postcard had gone through many changes. In 1899 AD, the word "EAST" was removed and the inscription became 'INDIA POST CARD'. In 1911 AD, special postcards for official use were issued by the Central and Provincial Governments to commemorate the Coronation of King George V Durbar held in Delhi. These carried the printed inscription of POST CARD but did not bear the stamp imprint. They bore the Crown and 'GRI' monograms embossed in gold and the word 'Delhi' and the emblem of various provinces embossed in different colours. After Independence the first postcard with the new stamp design of TRIMURTI in bright green was issued on 7th December, 1949 AD. In 1950 AD, Local Delivery postcard with reduced postage rate (6 pies) were issued carrying a stamp design in chocolate colour based on Konark Horse sculpture. On 2nd October 1951 AD, a series of three picture postcards showing Gandhiji holding a child, Gandhiji spinning and Gandhiji with Kasturba were released. On 2nd October 1969 AD, another series of three postcards showing Gandhiji spinning, Gandhiji and Sabarmati and a bust of Gandhiji were issued to mark the Gandhi Centenary. (Due to paucity of space all these post cards have not been depicted as Illustrations).

[16] ARPO 1879-80, p.13.

[17] Ibid, p.5.

[18] ARPO 1903-04, p.1.

[19] ARPO Ibid, p.7.

[20] ARPO, 1905-06, p.1.

[21] ARPO, 1906-07, p.1.

[22] ARPO, 1935-36, p.11.

Reply Postcards

The popularity of postcards having been established the reply postcard was introduced by the Indian Post Office with effect from 1st February 1884 AD. Under this system, the sender may write the address before hand on the second card, which was provided for the reply, thus ensuring the correctness of the sender's address, and providing the best security against the second card being used for any address other than as furnished by the sender.[23] In 1905 AD, the regulations relating to postcards of private manufacture were revised so as to allow the public to use part of the address side for written communication etc.[24]

Business Reply Card

To obviate loss caused to traders by the non-utilisation of stamped cards and envelopes sent out by them for the use of their prospective customers, Business reply cards and Business reply envelopes were introduced for transmission by the inland post with effect from the 1st February 1932 AD. These cards and envelopes were returnable by post without pre-payment, the postage being collected at the prepaid rate from the addressees on delivery.[25]

The rate of postage on postcards was enhanced to 1/2 anna in 1922 AD and to 3/4 anna or 9 pies in 1931 AD. It was reduced to 1/2 anna or 6 pies again in 1946 AD and again raised to 9 pies from Ist April 1949 AD.[26] The rate of single postcard was revised from 5 paise in 1957 AD to 6 pasie, 10 paise, 15 paise in 1963 AD, 1968 AD and 1974 AD respectively.[27]

The size of private postcards for use by the inland post was raised to 5 1/2 inches in length by 3 1/2 inches in breadth which was substantially the maximum size allowed by the rule of the Universal Postal Union.[28]

The postcard has been the cheapest means of communication offered by the Indian Post Office. The popularity of the post card among the general public since the date of its inception in the inland service has been spectacle and the traffic trend in respect of letters and postcards is indicated in Table IV.1.[29]

Inland Letter Cards

The "Inland Letter Cards" at a cheaper rate of postage than letters were introduced on 2nd October 1950 AD. This new type of letter form folded and closed on a single side by leaving two sides un-pasted provided a ready means of communication and its use saved the members of the public the trouble of finding writing paper and envelope. The letter cards are priced 1 1/2 annas each. It was 1/2 anna cheaper than the envelope. In the Post Office these are handled like letters and are given air lift wherever it is found advantageous.[30] The rate of each letter card was altered from 10 paise in 1957 AD to 15 paise, 20 paise, 25 paise and 35 paise in 1968 AD, 1974 AD, 1979 AD and 1982 AD respectively. In addition to the postage of 35 paise, a stationery charge of 15 paise was charged from 10th April 1988 AD. The rate of letter card was enhanced to 75 paise in 1990 AD.[31]

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[23] L'Union Postale, 1876, p.156, Finance and Commerce, separate Revenue, A.1430/33 of October 1882 and 1436/37 of Feb. 1884, p.1.

[24] ARPO 1905-06, p.1 Industry and Labour, Post Office, F.No.57, p.1. S.No.7 of October 1925, p.1.

[25] ARPO 1931-32, p.11. [26] ARPO 1949-50, p.6.

[27] ARPO 1963-64, p.4. ARPO 1968-69, p.8. [28] ARPO 1903-04, p.1.

[29] Figures are based on the annual reports of the Department for the respective years.

[30] ARPO 1950-51, p.3.

Newspapers

Newspapers are public vehicles for the dissemination of news of the day.[32] In 1854 AD, the minimum postage on newspapers of imported produce was two annas for 6 tolas of weight while of home produce was charged with twice the amount leviable on the former.[33] In 1860 AD, the postage was reduced to anna for 6 tolas both for imported and not imported ie., indigenous .[34]

By every unpaid newspaper upon which postage had to be recovered, the general delivery of letters was retarded. Hence the enforcement of the provision for pre-payment was ordered in 1861 AD. The newspapers were ordered not to be transmitted by post, unless at least one rate of postage had been prepaid by a stamp or stamps.[35]

Much difficulty was experienced in knowing what covers should be treated as newspapers and what covers as book-pockets, printed pamphlets, trade circulars, price current packets of old newspapers etc. were constantly posted, and it was always a matter difficult to decide whether they should be forwarded by letter post as newspapers or by the banghy post as book-packets. In order to avoid the possibility of complaint, the great bulk of such printed pamphlets, trade circulars, prices current, packets of newspapers etc. were forwarded by letter post, thus unnecessarily encumbering the letter mail.[36]

To overcome these problems, the unit of weight of newspapers was increased to ten tolas in 1866 AD and the newspaper was defined to be any periodical or publication published at regular intervals not exceeding 31 days. It was ordered to be registered on application to the Postmaster General of the circle in which it was published and this registration besides simplifying the work of the Post Office lessened the bulk of the letter mail.[37]

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31. ARPO 1960-61, p.8. ARPO 1968-69, p.9. and ARPO 1989-90, p.28. Parliamentary Debates of 30sth March, 1930 AD, p.1169.

32. Siyasatnamah, p.43 as cited in Qureshi, Dr. Ishtiaq Hussian, The Administration of the Sultanate of Delhi, p.89. Newspapers took their origin in the medieval Indian "Barid" houses that is to say, in the place to which news of all kind gravitated. By the end of seventeenth century, the soldiers of Aurangazeb's camp were seen supplied regularly with the "Akhbars", which were the private newsletters. They were semi-public and read by a large circle of readers.

"The newspaper-1", in Islamic Culture, January 1928, p.122 cited in Masson, Dr. Usha, "Means of Transport and Communications (1650-1750)", p.415. L'Union Postale, 1886, p.76. In the modern Europe, newspapers were compiled and published by the Postmasters, which was the reason why the title of certain newspapers such as Post, Post Courier, Tages Post, Post Zeitung etc. closely point to the connection between the post and newspaper writing. Benjamin Franklin, in his capacity of Postmaster of Philadelphia, published a newspaper.

33. Act XVII of 1854, Sec. VII, p.4.

34. Commerce and Industry, Post Office, Consultation No.18/24 of March 1861, p.19.

35. ibid, p.19. 36. ibid.

37. Finance Department, Separate Revenue, Proc. No.65 of June 1871, p.1.

Retaining this enlarged limit of weight of 10 tolas, the charge was reduced by one-half in respect of newspapers duly registered at the office of the Postmaster General with information as to the language in which the paper was published, the day or dates and intervals of publication, the place of publication and the name of the Editor or person responsible for the management. This measure came into force in 1871 AD and the number of newspapers registered was 430, of which 141 were published in English language, 233 in vernacular and 66 in English and the vernacular.[38]

The reduced rates of postage in 1871 AD were also considered to bear an almost absurd proportion to the cost of the publication. The rates were to some extent felt to increase circulation of newspapers published for the English community.[39] The reduction in postage in 1881 AD on higher class of newspaper not exceeding 3 tolas in weight and posted under special conditions was reduced from 1/2 anna to 1/4 anna which gave an enormous impetus to the sale of cheap newspapers in the vernacular.[40]

While the postage rate remained static at 1/4 an anna the required minimum weight altered to 4 tolas, 6 tolas, 8 tolas and 10 tolas in 1898 AD, 1904 AD and 1936 AD respectively. The rate was, however, enhanced in 1939 AD to half an anna for a weight of 10 tolas. Separate cheaper postage rates were continued to be made available for book packets containing registered newspapers and periodicals which are registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India. The minimum postage was revised from 1/2 anna to 2 naye paise in 1957 AD. The minimum rate was further altered from 2 naye paise in 1957 AD to 5 paise, 2 paise, 5 paise and 15 paise in 1968 AD, 1969 AD, 1982 AD and 1987 AD respectively.[41]

These concessions benefited the circulation of newspapers by post. Traffic trend of newspapers posted from time to time is indicated in Table No. IV.2.

Book, Pattern and Sample Packets

In 1854 AD the Book post was introduced. By the introduction of Book post rules, number of books formerly forwarded as Parcel at Banghy rates were considerably benefited.[42]

Books, pamphlets, packets of newspaper of printed or engraved papers other than newspapers, not exceeding 120 tolas in weight sent without covers or packed in short covers open at both ends and prepaid with proper stamps were allowed to be sent under this service. The rates of postage on this post i.e. Book post, was to be levied without reference to the distance to which they might be conveyed and was 1 anna for a weight not exceeding 20 tolas and so on. If any such packet exceeded the prescribed weight or if not pre-paid, it was to be charged with the rates prescribed for the banghy parcels.[43]

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[38] ARPO 1871-72 and Finance Department. Separate Revenue. Proc. 65/67 of June 1871, p.1.

[39] ARPO 1872-73, pp.6-7.

[40] Proceedings of the S.C., P.S.C. 1887, p.42 & ARPO 1884-85, p.5.

[41] ARPO 1939-40, Finance & Commerce, Separate Revenue. A.24-25 of January 1904, p.2 an Historical Schedule of Rates.

[42] ARPO 1855-56. p.35 and Finance. Separate Revenue. Proc.65 of June 1871, p.1. Hamilton. I.G.J., An outline of Postal History and practice, p.109. In 1848 AD. the Book post was started for the benefit of education literature in England.

[43] Act No.XVII of 1854. Section XI & XII.

By the enactment of Post Office Act, 1866 AD the previously existing restrictions on the articles which might be sent by book post were removed.[44] Pattern packets were introduced in 1869 AD and rates on these packets were 2 annas for a packet of 10 tolas or fraction thereof. Photographs, prints, maps and any quality of paper, parchment or vellum were also accepted under this service.[45] The postage on pattern packets was reduced from 2 annas to 1 anna per 10 tolas in 1872 AD. In 1872-73 AD packets containing printed pamphlets, trade circulars and price current also came to be admitted as book packets and were entitled to the privilege of transmission by letter post at the rate of 1 anna for 10 tolas.[46]

All these changes and reduction in the rates resulted in an increase in the number of these packets sent by post. The traffic trend of these packets is indicated in Table No.IV.2.[47]

A further diminution in the packet rates from 1 anna to 1/2 anna per 10 tolas occurred in 1878 AD.[48] The insufficiently paid packets formerly charged at letter or parcel rates were made chargeable with only double the deficiency in 1878 AD.[49] All these changes helped in growth of the traffic in 1884-85 AD and 1894-95 AD as indicated in table IV.2.

In 1899 AD samples of merchandise viz., objects of natural history, dried or preserved animals and plants, geological specimen and other similar objects were allowed to be transmitted by pattern and sample packets provided they were not for commercial purpose and they were packed in a manner prescribed for samples of merchandise.[50] The dimensions of a pattern packet was not to exceed two feet in length and one feet in width and one feet in depth and weight was not to exceed 80 tolas.[51]

In 1921 AD, the rate of postage to be charged for this kind of articles was revised to 1/2 anna for every 5 tolas or part thereof.[52] The minimum postage rate on this account for the initial 5 tolas of weight was raised from 1/2 anna to 3/4 anna in 1934 AD.[53]

The rate of postage on packets was further revised to 1/2 anna for the first 5 tolas, 1/4 anna for every additional 2 tolas in 1937 AD and increased

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44. ARPO 1866-68, p.5. A service more appropriately called "packet post" embracing packets open at both ends which might contain books or any other article not being manuscripts, letters or dangerous substances was introduced.

45. Finance, Separate Revenue, A 36/39 of June 1869, p.6.

46. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.52/54 of August 1870, p.1.

47. Figures are based on the annual reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

48. Proc. of the S.C., P.S.C. 1887, p.42.

49. ARPO 1878-79, p.3.

50. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue A. 579-582 of August 1899, p.1. Introduction of this facility in inland service was as a result of the decision of the Universal Postal Union Congress at Washington making compulsory between the member countries of the union the accepetance of articles of glass liquids, oils, fatty substances, dry flowers and live bees.

51. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.670-673 of Oct 1899,p.1. Geoffry Clarke, The Post Office of India, p.48 and Mazumdar, ibid, p.268. The parcel post in India has its origin in the old 'Bhanghy Post' a name derived from the Bamboo stick or bhangy which an Indian carrier balances on his shoulder with the weights slung at each end. Initially it was used solely for the conveyance of official records and articles of the East India Company. The Banghy Post was first introduced on 2nd December 1784 AD by the Postmaster General Calcutta GPO for conveyance of mails. Acceptance of Banghy parcels from individuals commenced from 4th Jan 1802 AD.

52. ARPO 1921-22, p.3.

53. ARPO 1934-35, p.7.

to 3/4 anna and 1 anna for the first 5 tolas and 1/4 anna and 1/2 anna for the additional 2 tolas and 2 1/2 tolas respectively in 1940 AD and 1953 AD respectively.[54] This service had always found favour with the general public as it is evident vide traffic trend of this class of business furnished at Table IV.2.

Book Packets containing "Printed Books"

With effect from 10 th June, 1957 AD specially reduced rates of postage were introduced for the transmission of books by the inland post. The rates were 5 naye paise for a weight not exceeding 5 tolas and 3 naye paise for every additional 2 1/2 tolas or fraction thereof over 5 tolas.[55] The rates were revised from 5 naye paise in 1961 AD to 5 paise for a weight not exceeding 50 grams and 3 naye paise for additional 25 grams to 5 paise for every additional 50 grams or fraction there of in 1967 AD.[56]

Book Packets (Other than those containing Printed Books)

In 1957 AD the rates of postage on book packets (other than those containing printed books), Pattern and Sample packets were revised as 8 naye paise for a weight not exceeding 5 tolas and 3 naye paise for every additional 2 1/2 tolas or fraction thereof.[57] The rates were again revised from 8 naye paise in 1961 AD to 10 paise for a weight not exceeding 50 grams and 3 naye paise to 5 naye paise for each additional 25 grams or fraction thereof on 1st May 1963 AD.[58]

The minimum rate of postage for Book, Pattern and Sample Packets were revised from 10 paise in 1963 AD to 15 paise, 20 paise, 25 paise, 30 paise, 50 paise, 1 rupee in 1968 AD, 1970 AD, 1978 AD, 1982 AD, 1987 AD, and 1990 AD respectively.[59]

Though initially only books were carried under "Book Packets" later this service came to be renamed as "Book, Pattern and Sample Packets" and numerous other items of artistic value, and samples of merchandise, etc. were admitted for transmission under this service making it popular among different sections of the society.

Blind Literature Packets

In 1921 AD, the postal charges for the "Blind literature packets" were fixed at 1/2 anna for a weight not exceeding 40 tolas, 1 anna from 40 to 200 tolas and 2 annas from 200 to 250 tolas.[60] The postage rates were reduced and revised as 1/2 anna for a packet up to 80 tolas in weight, 1 anna for a weight from 80 to 200 tolas and 1 1/2 anna from 200 to 250 tolas, in 1926 AD.[61] The blind literature packets were exempted from postage for transmission by post to any destination in India or abroad with effect from 24th August 1957 AD.

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[54] ARPO 1937-38, pp.3-4, ARPO 1940-41, p.6 and ARPO 1953-54, p.22.

[55] ARPO 1957-58, p.38.

[56] ARPO 1960-61, p.8 ARPO 1967-68, p.6 and Historical Schedule of Rates.

[57] ARPO 1857-58, p.38. ARPO 1960-61, p.8.

[58] ARPO 1989-90, p.28 and Historical Schedule of Rates.

[59] ARPO 1967-68, p.7 and Historical Schedule of Rates.

[60] Public Works Department, Post Office Branch, A.1 & 2 of December 1921, p.1.

[61] Industry and Labour, Post Office F.No.2 of 1926, p.1. of notes.

Later these packets were transmitted free of postage. With effect from 1st April 1959 AD these packets were further exempted from payment of fees for Registration, Advice of Delivery and Enquiry, both in the Inland and Foreign posts.[62] Another important service entertained by the post office is the acceptance and transmission of parcels.

Parcel Post

Prior to 1854 AD also, the parcel post had formed part of the post office business in India.[63] The parcel post known as "Banghy" or "Bhangy Post" was first used solely for the conveyance of official records and articles sent on government service. During the year 1854 AD on introduction of the postal reforms, the charge on this service was continued to be based on weight and distance.[64]

In 1870 AD the extension of railway communication namely the junction of the two great railway systems of Bengal and Bombay and the early prospect of a junction with the Madras railway system made the carriage of banghy parcels over long distances a matter of less importance. The simplification of a uniform rate of charge for all distances was thus conveniently adopted in the case of parcels and with effect from 1st September 1870 AD a uniform rate of 3 annas for 10 tolas was fixed.[65]

The Railway companies carried parcels with a large limit of weight and generally had a high minimum rate of charge as the booking of small parcels was disliked owing to the trouble caused in their booking. But this type of business was one for which the Post Office Organisation stood more adopted and looked for a maintenance of its business.[66]

The limit of 640 tolas in weight for banghy parcel when transmitted along any line of road on which the mails were carried by post runners was abolished, the larger limit of 2000 tolas was made applicable without reference to means of conveyance in 1871-72 AD. At the same time the limit of 600 tolas was fixed for service parcels.[67]

Prior to 1873 AD receipts for parcels tendered for transmission through the post used to be given by the post office only when presented ready written by the sender, and in the said year, it was ruled that the sender of a parcel should be entitled to receive a receipt for it. Payment of postage was made in cash, but pre-payment was optional except for insured parcels.[68]

In 1873 AD, a reduction was made in the charge for parcels from 6 annas to 4 annas for 20 tolas, and in like proportion for heavier weights.[69]

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[62] ARPO 1957-58, p.37. ARPO 1959-60, p.7.

[63] ARPO 1869-70, p.3. Proc. of S.C.P.S.C. 1887, p.42. Postal system in India from 1650-1750 by Dr. Usha Agarwal pub. in Bengal Past and Present, Calcutta Historical Society, Vol.LXXXV of Jan-June 1966, Pt.I. According to Badaoni, parcels were carried between him and his friend Sheikh Yaqub of Kashmir. (Abdul-Qadir In-Mulek Shah "Muntakhabur-Tawarikh). In Great Britain and other European countries, the parcel system was started later.

[64] Post Office Act, XVII of 1854, Section, XI, XII, XV, XVIII.

[65] Finance Department, Separate, Revenue, A.52/54 of August 1870, p.1.

[66] Ibid.

[67] ARPO 1871-72, p.3.

[68] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.711-713 of September 1885, KWs. Also see Finance, Separate Revenue, A.34-35 of April 1873, p.1.

[69] ARPO 1872-73, p.2.

Parcel post used principally for transmission of goods was necessarily governed by the consideration more of a commercial character. It was looked as an important branch of the Indian Post Office and continued to be regarded from a point of view including more of the commercial element than that from which the book post was viewed.[70]

In all calculation of the cost of extra accommodation made available by guaranteed railways to the post office, the conveyance of non-service parcels was treated as a thing for which the Railway company was to be re-imbursed. Added to this, every parcel was transmitted as a registered article passed under detailed receipt from office to office. The existed minimum charge of 4 annas for a parcel was, therefore, considered to be too low and was altered to 8 annas for 40 tolas effective from 1877 AD. In 1880 AD, the minimum rate of postage was reduced from 8 annas for a parcel not exceeding 40 tolas to 4 annas for 20 tolas.[72]

Owing to the high rates, the ordinary parcel traffic remained practically stationary during the last 5 years ending with 1894-95 AD.[73] The parcels were carried by the post office only under what in effect was a system of registration. This system was, therefore, evolved to make the service more popular by introducing a class of cheap un-registered parcels with effect from 1st of August 1895 AD. Parcels to which senders attached any value or importance and those which they did not wish to prepay could be continued to be sent by the registered parcel post. Registration, however, was made compulsory on parcels above 440 tolas in weight.[74]

The minimum rate of parcel postage for 20 tolas weight was fixed as 2 annas for the initial 20 tolas to 40 tolas as 4 annas for additional 40 tolas or fraction thereof up to 2000 tolas.[75] The registration fee of 2 annas for a parcel not exceeding 20 tolas in weight and 4 annas for a parcel in excess of 20 tolas in weight introduced in 1895 AD was reduced to a uniform rate of two annas in 1901 AD.[76]

The rates of inland parcel postage which came into force in 1901 AD were : (i) in the case of parcel not exceeding 440 tolas in weight, 2 annas for the first 20 tolas, 4 annas for any weight exceeding 20 but not exceeding 40 tolas and 2 annas for every additional 40 tolas: and (ii) in the case of parcels exceeding 440 tolas in weight, Rs. 3 for a parcel not exceeding 480 tolas in weight and 4 annas for every additional tolas.[77] In 1907 AD, the parcel postage rates applicable to weights between 20 and 440 tolas were reduced by two annas throughout the scale.[78]

In 1937 AD, the minimum rate of parcel postage was altered to 4 annas for 40 tolas of weight and was enhanced to 6 annas for the same in 1943 AD. The rates of postage on inland parcels for every 40 tolas or fraction thereof after the first 40 tolas was raised from 4 annas to 6 annas in 1945 AD.[79] The rate of postage for every 40 tolas or fraction thereof was enhanced to 8 annas in 1953 AD.[80]

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70. Ibid, p.2. 71. Financial. Separate Revenue. A.23/26 of August 1877, p.1. 72. ARPO 1880-81, p.4.
73. Financial & Commerce. A.No.682-688 of June 1895, p.650. 74. Ibid.
75. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue. A.682-688 of June 1895, p.650.
76. ARPO 1901-02, p.1 Finance and Commerce. Separate Revenue, A.364-70 of March 1897, p.369. Prepayment of all charges for postage, registration and insurance of all inland parcels was made compulsory in 1897 AD.
77. ARPO 1901-02, p.1. 78. ARPO 1907-08, p.2. 79. ARPO 1945-46, p.4. 80. ARPO 1953-54, p.22.

The rates on parcels were revised from 50 paise for 40 tolas in 1957 AD to 60 paise for weight not exceeding 400 grammes and 50 paise for additional 400 grammes or fraction thereof on 1st May 1961 AD and 60 naye paise per 400 grammes in 1963 AD to 65 paise, 80 paise, 90 paise, 1 rupee for the same weight in 1967 AD, 1968 AD, 1970 AD, and 1971 AD respectively. Thereafter, keeping the minimum weight as 500 grammes the rate of minimum postage on parcels was altered from Rs.1.50 in 1974 AD to Rs. 2.00, Rs.3.00, Rs.4.00 and Rs.6.00 in 1980 AD, 1983 AD, 1987 AD and with effect from 11th June 1990 AD respectively.[81]

The system of forwarding parcels by air on payment of an air surcharge introduced in 1949 AD on the Night Air Mail routes was subsequently extended to all air services operating within India.[82] The air parcel service met a long felt need for a system under which urgent parcels could be expeditiously sent through the post for delivery at the door of the addressee.

The parcel system had been one of the service much sought for and utilised by the members of the public. Its traffic trend over the years is furnished in Table No.IV.2.

Express Parcel Service

Express Parcel Service has been introduced from 1st December 1994 AD to provide quality service to the customers. This service operates on Delhi-Bombay, Delhi-Calcutta and Delhi-Madras routes. The maximum weight of the parcels accepted under this service is 20 kilograms with no minimum limit. The parcels booked under EPS are delivered at the destination by the fourth day.[82a]

In a country like India where distances are so great, the inconvenience and delay caused by the miscarriage of an important article by post is necessarily far greater than in most of the other countries. To build public confidence, the post office introduced a service known as "Registration" for safe transmission of mail. The mode of development of this service and other forms of service guaranteeing safe transmission of mail such as value payable and insurance system forms an interesting aspect of the study.

Registration

Prior to 1854 AD, the system of safe transmission of important letters by way of registration on payment of a prescribed fee was in practice in the post offices of Bengal and Bombay presidencies.[83] It was introduced on all- India basis in 1854 AD.[84] The service fee

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81. ARPO 1960-61, p.8 ARPO 1963-64, p.4. ARPO 1968-69, p.9 and ARPO 1989-90, p.8.

82. ARPO 1948-49, p.18.

82a. The Hindustan Times dated 16th December 1994, 0.10.

83. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.80. The system was introduced in the post office of Bengal and Bombay in 1851 AD under which a printed form of receipt was given to the sender at the time of booking and in a register in detail every letter so registered was entered in the office of despatch and in the course of transmission and on its arrival in the office of delivery.

84. Public Department, No.115 of 1858, Appended to ARPO 1856-57, 1857-58, p.1.

for registered letter was 4 annas in addition to the usual postage prescribed. Public opinion in India, was in favour of reduction of the registration fee.[85]

Under section 49 of the Post Office Act, 1854 AD, the Government was not responsible and did not guarantee the safety of a registered letter. The registration simply made a letter more secure in reaching from one official to other. Registration envelopes were introduced in 1866 AD.[86]

The practice of enclosing currency notes in unregistered covers often led to tampering. To prevent this possibility the registration of letters containing coins and currency notes was made compulsory in 1869 AD.[87] There were complaints upon introduction of this rule as the registration fee in itself was considered by the public to be too high.

The system of obtaining the acknowledgement of the registered letters from the addressee on additional payment of an anna was introduced in 1877 AD.[88] In view of the impending possibility to reduce the registration fee, the Department, postponed any change and watched the impact of "certificate of posting" the facility newly introduced in 1878 AD.[89]

The registration fee for inland book and pattern packets was reduced from 4 annas to 2 annas, and the privilege of registration irrespective of weight, was extended to such packets in 1879 AD.[90] The reduction was extended to all classes of articles in 1881 AD.[91] Result being the number of registered letters considerably increased at the close of 1884-85 AD and 1894-95 AD consecutively as given in the Table No. IV.3.[92]

In 1901 AD the fee for registration of postal parcel was reduced to a uniform rate of two annas instead of on weight basis.[93]

In 1905 AD arrangements were made to grant compensation under specified conditions up to 25 rupees for the loss or damage caused to the contents of an uninsured registered letter, packet, or parcel in course of transmission,[94] though the Post Office had been exempted by law from any such responsibility unless they were insured.[95] The over printing of the large registration envelope for service purposes was discontinued with effect from 1st January, 1906 AD.[96] Registration envelopes of three new sizes viz, 7 1/2" x 4 1/2", 9" x 6 1/4" and 14 1/2" x 5 1/2" were issued in July, 1927 AD.[97] These envelopes were more

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85. ARPO 1855-56, p.16. 86. ARPO 1855-56, p.16. Riazat Hussain in article,"Postal Services under Nizams Rule in Hyderabad, - Dak Tar, December, 1975, p.13. 87. ARPO 1868-69, p.5. ARPO 1871-72.

88. Calcutta Review, Vol. 88-89 of 1889, p.124. In English registration system, there was no arrangement of obtaining such an acknowledgement signed by the addressee.

89. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.93-95 of March 1878, p.1. The British Post Office reduced its fee for registration from 4 pence to 2 pence in 1878 AD. The reduction in India was estimated to involve a loss of Rs.3 1/2 lakhs of revenue. 90. ARPO 1879-80, p.4 and Finance, Separate Revenue, No.93-95 of March 1878, p.1.

91. ARPO 1881-82, p.3 and Calcutta Review, Vol.88 and 89 of 1889, p.124.

92. Figures are based on the Annual reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

93. ARPO 1901-02 and ARPO 1886-87. In 1886 AD, a large sized registration envelope was introduced. In the case of these envelopes besides the face value, a small charge was also levied to cover the cost of material and manufacture.

94. ARPO 1905-06, p.6. 95. ARPO 1919-20, p.7. 96. ARPO, 1905-06, p.13. 97. ARPO, 1927-28, p.7.

popular than the former sizes. Small registration envelopes of 4 1/2 annas denomination were issued during 1932-33 AD.[98] In view of the persistent decline of its revenue, the fee for registration was raised from 2 annas to 3 annas in 1931 AD[99] The fee was again raised from 3 annas to 4 annas, in 1948 AD and to 4 annas 6 pies and 6 annas in 1951 AD and 1953 AD respectively.[100] Thereafter the Registration fee was revised from 50 paise in 1957 AD to 55 paise in 1963 AD and from 60 paise in 1967 AD to 70 paise, 75 paise, 95 paise, 1 rupee Rs.1.25, 2 rupees, Rs.2.25, Rs.2.75 and Rs.4.50 in 1968 AD, 1969 AD, 1970 AD, 1971 AD, 1974 AD, 1976 AD, 1978 AD, 1982 AD, and 1987 A.D respectively. The Registration fee was further altered from 5 rupees in 1988 AD to 6 rupees with effect from 11th June 1990 AD.[101]

Certificate of Posting

To ensure the correct posting of letters or any other article the Department introduced the system of "Certificate of Posting" on 1st April 1879 AD.[102]

A certificate of posting was issued for unregistered letters and articles at a charge of 1/2 anna per certificate for any number of letters or articles covered by each certificate.[103] This facility was extended to Book packets etc. in 1879 AD. However, the number of letters and parcels was later restricted to six in number under each certificate of posting.[104]

In 1906 AD, the fee for certificate of posting was reduced to 1/4 anna, for letters, postcards, book packets or newspapers up to three or the parcels or value payable book packets up to six at a time.[105] Separate certificates were to be prepared for letters and parcels. During 1912 AD a prescribed from for "Certificate of posting" combined for use of all kinds of articles was introduced.[106]

In 1931 AD, the said fee was enhanced to 1/2 anna per 3 un-registered articles of all classes. The fee was fixed as 3 naye paise for every three articles or any less number from 1st April 1957 AD as a result of decimalisation of Indian coinage. The fee was later enhanced to 20 paise for one certificate containing 3 articles and it is 2 rupees with effect from 11 June 1990 AD.[107] Thereafter the fee remained unchanged and the facility was open to both the general public and for official purpose. To prevent the misuse of the postal facility extended to the official purposes and to keep the proper account of the posting of the official letters, 'Service Stamp' was introduced.

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[98] ARPO. 1932-33. p.9.
[99] ARPO 1931-32, p.10.
[100] ARPO 1948-49, p.17. ARPO 1951-52, p.15 and ARPO 1953-54, p.22.
[101] ARPO 1963-64, p.4. ARPO 1908 AD, p.9. ARPO 1989-90. p.28.
[102] Finance, Separate Revenue, A.95 of March 1878, p.1.
[103] ARPO 1878-79, p.3.
[104] Ibid.
[105] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.364-70 of March 1897, p.2 and ARPO 1897-98, p.2. ARPO 1906-07, p.2.
[106] Commerce and Industry, Post Office, File No.62,S.Nos.1/2 and 10/11 of April 1912, p.1.
[107] Historical Schedule of Rates.

Official Postage

Public officers as specified in the subjoined lists of the Postal Act, 1854 AD were permitted to send and receive articles by post without pre-payment. This facility was known as 'Franking System'.[108] The postage charges in this connection were to be borne by their concerned Departments. The increase in the number of public Departments since 1854 AD led to considerable increase of official correspondence. The total number of official correspondence increased from 49.96 lakhs in 1854-55 AD to 97.22 lakhs in 1864-65 AD.[109]

In 1866 AD, in order to limit the official correspondence, the privilege of franking was restricted to a small number of public offices. All the other official correspondence was made to be pre-paid by service postage.[110] The service stamp was first introduced in 1866 AD with an over-print of the word "Service".[111] (For Service postage stamps see Plate No. 8).

With the modification of Postal Rules in 1871-72 AD, principal officers were given free Postal facilities so far as they are covered under the 'Franking System'.[112]

The rate for official correspondence was fixed in 1878 AD as 1/2 anna for letters weighing up to 1/2 tola, 1 anna exceeding 1/2 tola and not exceeding 10 tolas, 2 annas for weight from 10 to 20 tolas. Packets were charged at the rate of 1/2 anna per 10 tolas and parcels up to 20 tolas were levied with a charge of 4 annas.[113]

In 1902 AD the official postage rates were made equal to the private correspondence.[114] In the year 1911 AD the superscription "On H.M.S" was substituted for the word "Service" on postage stamps used for official purpose. Till 1939 AD the ordinary postage stamps over-printed with the word "Service" were issued. In the said year 'Service Stamps' in the anna series were issued. Thus accounting of official postage charges was facilitated by the issue of separate service stamps. The postage stamps in post-independence India for official use have the state emblem namely the Ashokan capitol. (see Illustration 33 for Service Postcard). New postal stationery depicting appropriate design was also introduced in replacement of the old ones.[115] The use of Service postage stamps in booking of Speed Post articles by Government Departments has been permitted in 1994 AD.[115a]

The post office introduced a system under which purchasing could be made through the agency of post office and was commonly known as "Value payable" system.

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108. Franking system : Under this system the official correspondence marked as such under the authenticity of the despatching officer was permitted to be sent and received without pre-payment.

109. Post Office Guide, 1855 (Rules for Management of Post Office),p.68.

110. ARPO 1865-66, p.4 and ARPO 1866-67, pp.2-3. Financial Accounts Br. A.89-91 of April 1866, pp.2-3.

111. ARPO 1866-67, pp.2,3. 112. ARPO 1871-72, p.5.

113. Proc. of S.C., P.S.C., 1887, p.42.

114. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.108-109 of April 1901, p.1.

115. ARPO 1911-12, p.9. ARPO 1939, p.32. ARPO 1949-50, pp.5,6.

115(a). Director General's Circular No 4 dated 01 Jan. 1994.

OFFICIAL/SERVICE POSTAGE STAMPS

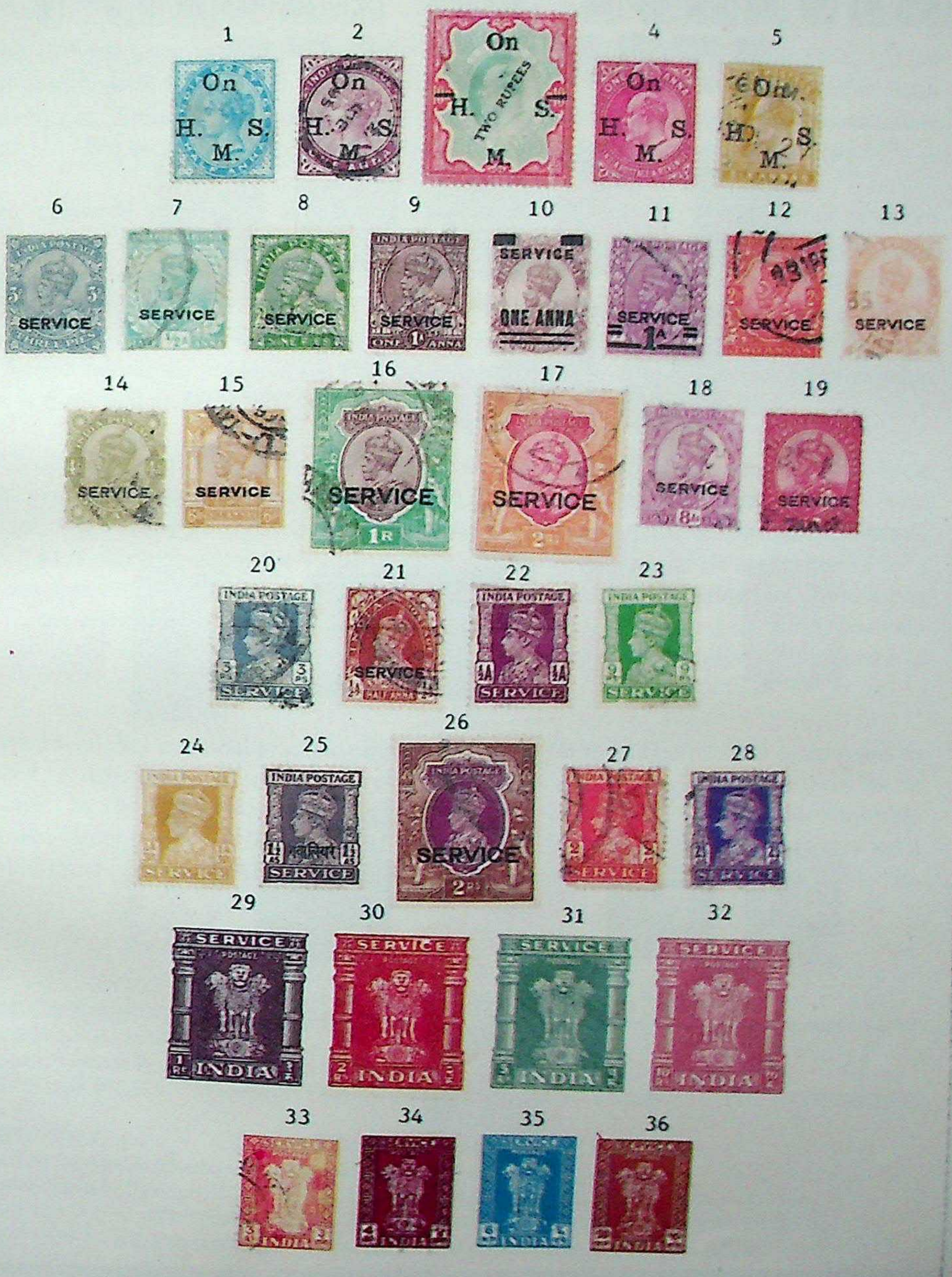
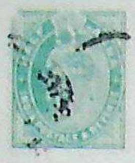

1
2
3
4
5
On H. S. M.
TWO RUPEES
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
SERVICE
ONE ANNA
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
INDIA POSTAGE
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
INDIA

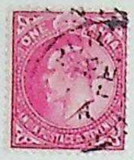
PLATE 9

REVENUE OR RECEIPT STAMPS ETC.,

1

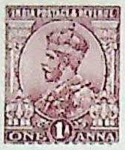


2

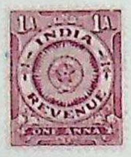


3

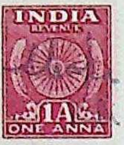
4


INDIA POSTAGE & REVENUE
ONE 1 ANNA

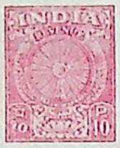
6


1A 1A
INDIA
REVENUE
ONE ANNA

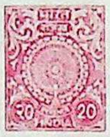
7


INDIA
REVENUE
1A
ONE ANNA

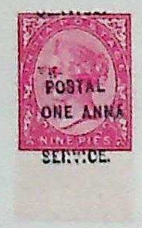
8



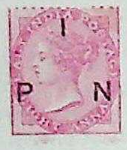
9



10

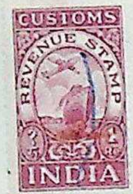

POSTAL
ONE ANNA
NINE PIES
SERVICE.

11

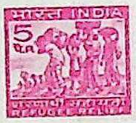


12

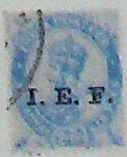
13


CUSTOMS
REVENUE STAMP
INDIA

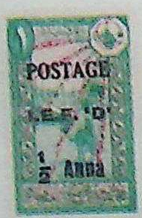
14


INDIA
5
REFUGEE RELIEF

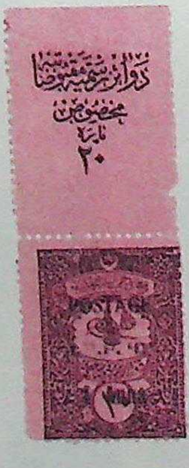
15



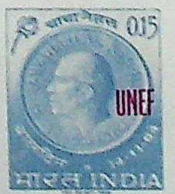
16


POSTAGE
I.E.F. 'D'
½ Anna

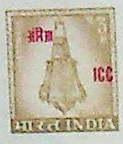
17



18


0.15
UNEF
INDIA

19



Value Payable System

In the value payable system introduced from 1st December, 1877 AD, the sender of a parcel had to declare the value of the contents for realisation from the addressee, and to be paid to the sender on its collection less a postal commission.[116] This led to considerable addition to the revenue and found to be of great convenience to the public. Such parcels could be posted only in Disbursing Post Offices.[117]

The 1879 AD, the system was extended to registered book packets.[118] In 1880 AD the rate of commission charged on the realisation of the value of parcels and registered book packets by the "Value payable" system was reduced by one-half i.e., from two percent to one percent.[119] The area of posting of such articles was extended to money order offices.[120]

The registered letters were added to this service in 1882 AD.[121] It was further extended in 1885 AD to unregistered book-packets, both paid and unpaid. In 1886 AD privileged publications were also included under this system.[122] The system was extended to unregistered parcels in 1898 AD. All classes of articles, like small publications, religious, educational and newspapers prepaid at full rates were also covered by this system. It found much favour among the masses.[123] The traffic trend of the articles sent under value payable system is furnished in Table No.IV.4 .[124]

Abuse of the value payable system also grew in connection with unregistered book packets which were posted in large numbers to persons who had not ordered them. This abuse not only caused annoyance and loss to the public, but tended to discredit the whole system. As a check measure the value payable articles were made to be accompanied by a certificate that they were sent in execution of a bonafide order.[125] To safeguard the interests of the Department the practice of realisation of commission before-hand on non-refundable basis was introduced.[126] In 1904 AD, the amount specified for remittance to the sender in the case of each article was restricted to 1000 rupees.[127]

It was found that in actual practice all articles sent under the value payable system had to be treated as registered articles and therefore, it was decided to demand registration fee in every case. In 1920 AD, the transmission of unregistered articles under the value payable system was discontinued.[128] This resulted in gradual decrease of the business and recorded a downward trend in 1934-35 AD and 1944-45 AD as compared to 1924-25 AD vide Table No. IV.4.

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[116] ARPO 1878-79,p.11. The system had found much favour earlier in Germany and other European countries before its introduction in India.

[117] Finance, Separate Revenue, A.Proc.1 to 3 of October,1877,p.1.

[118] ARPO 1886-87, p.29. [119] ARPO 1880-81, p.4. [120] ARPO 1886-87, p.29. [121] ARPO 1882-83, p.14.

[122] ARPO 1886-87, p.29. [123] ARPO 1898-99, p.1.

[124] Based on the Annual Reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

[125] Finance, Separate Revenue, A.1 of 1898 and ARPO 1889-90 p.24.

[126] Ibid, p.1. [127] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.422-423 of October 1904, p.1.

[128] ARPO 1920-21, p.2, Commerce, Post Office, A.7-10 of August 1920 pp.1-2 of notes.

[129] ARPO 1950-51, p.14.

A demurrage charge of 4 annas and 2 annas per day for parcels and other articles respectively for detention beyond 5 days was enforced in 1950 AD.[129] In 1951 AD a new fee known as value payable fee was imposed. The fee was fixed as 1 anna for an article where the amount specified for remittance to the sender was not over 25 rupees and 2 annas in all other cases. Costly items under 'Value Payable' system were required to be compulsorily insured. The limit of value payable articles was raised from Rs.1000 to Rs.2000 with effect from 30th June 1992 AD.[130]

The average value of the Value Payable articles posted ranged between 16 rupees to 35 rupees since the date of its inception to 1953-54 AD and around Rs. 100 till 1983-84 AD vide figures at Table IV.4. The system had thus to a great deal facilitated the people living outside the great cities to make retail purchases by post. For transmission of more valuable goods by post, the post office has a system known as 'Insurance' system.[131]

Insurance of Postal articles

Under this system introduced in 1878 AD the Government guaranteed to the sender the safe transit of insured registered letters and parcels and gave compensation to him within the insured value, for any actual loss occurring in transit from any cause whatsoever, subject to certain conditions.[132]

The parcels including value payable ones and letters could be insured without restriction to the limit to its value. They were charged at 1/2 percent which was soon reduced to 1/4 percent in 1878 AD itself.[133] As no limit was fixed either to the value of insured articles or to the quantity of coin or bullion for transmission by post, unusual large quantities of bullion was transmitted by post. When such articles passed through the Native States it was their responsibility to arrange for the protection of mail against robbery. The system of partial insurance was introduced in 1880 AD. No compensation was paid under this system by the Department to the sender if partially insured articles were lost in a high-way robbery. The precautions taken for these articles while in transit in British territory were the same as for fully insured articles.[134]

The number of insured articles posted, their declared value and the amount of commission realised on them are indicated in Table IV.5.[135]

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130. ARPO 1950-51, p.14. and ARPO 1992-93, p.45.

131. Finance Sepe. Rev. A.197/203 of Dec. 1877, p.2,3 & Proc. of S.C., PSC, 1887, p.43. The Treasury Department had undertaken the transmission of inland money order business since 1862 AD The system was considered to be a mere bagatelle when measured by the wants of the country. for the whole of India it provided but 294 offices, situated at the provincial centres, the wants of the middle or lower classes of towns and villages was entirely unprovided for.

132. Ibid, p.4.

133. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.203 of November 1877, p.5. and No.252/54 of June 1878,p.1. The rate on 1st January 1878 AD was 1 anna when the value certified did not exceed 10 rupees, 2 annas per 25 rupees and 4 annas per 50 rupees, 6 annas for 75 rupees and 8 annas for 100 rupees or fraction thereof thereafter. was altered with effect from Ist August 1878 AD to 2 annas for 50 rupees. The rates were reduced with the obvious disinclination which had been developed in some natives to use the system on the ground of heavy charge involved for parcels of high value.

In 1890 AD, the limit of 1000 rupees for postal insurance was enforced. Due to this restriction, there was fall in the number of insured articles booked in 1894-95 AD as compared to the figure of 1884-85 AD (vide Table IV.5).

In 1898-99 AD the limit of insured articles was raised from 1000 rupees to 2000. Branch post offices and sub post offices notified for the purpose were authorised to insure articles up to the value of 500 rupees and 2000 rupees respectively.[136] Insurance of articles containing coins, bullion, precious stones, jewellery, and articles of gold or silver was made compulsory in 1899 AD. But the requirement of declaration of their contents by the senders, was dispensed with in order to induce the traders to insure of their own.[137] This resulted in increase of the traffic in the next decade vide figures for 1904-05 AD in table No.IV.5.

In 1905 AD, the insurance fee was further reduced to 1/8th percent on the value subject to a minimum of 1 anna for an article with declared value not over 50 rupees and multiples of 1 anna for every additional 50 rupees and fraction thereof.[138] The insurance of articles containing currency notes or portion thereof was made compulsory in 1911 AD. All this resulted in considerable improvement in the traffic by the decade ending with 1914-15 AD. (vide Table No. IV.5).

By 1921 AD, the security of mail routes traversing through the Indian States considerably improved, and the partial insurance system was abolished in the said year.[139]

In 1924 AD the rate of fee was further altered to multiples of 2 annas for a value not over 100 rupees or every additional 100 rupees or fraction thereof.[140] During 1924-25 AD the insurance business showed a significant increase as compared to the figures of 1914-15 AD (vide Table No. IV.5).

In 1931 AD and 1942 AD, the minimum charge on the value up to 100 rupees was raised to 3 annas and 4 annas respectively with slight modifications in between and the rate was reduced to 1 anna per value of 100 rupees or fraction thereof over 1000 rupees.[141] The charges were again revised and the minimum charge on the value up to 100 rupees was raised from 4 annas in 1942 AD to 6 annas in 1953 AD and over 100 rupees for every additional 100 rupees or fraction thereof was raised from 1 anna in 1942 AD to 2 annas and 3 annas in 1951 AD and 1953 AD respectively. The increase in the charges on this account were partially responsible for decline in traffic at the close of 1934-35 AD and 1944-45 AD.[142] Insurance fee was revised from 37 naye paise in 1957 AD to 40 paise where the value insured does not exceed Rs. 100 and 20 paise for every additional Rs. 100 or fraction thereof on 1st May 1963 AD. The minimum insurance fee when the value does not exceed Rs. 100 was altered from 45 paise in 1967 AD to 50 paise, 1 Rupee 2 Rupees,4 Rupees in 1968 AD, 1976 AD, 1983 AD and from 11th June 1990 AD respectively.[143]

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[134] Foreign & Pol. Department, Internal, 453-466 of August 1921, pp.1-2.
[135] Based on annual reports.
[136] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.388 of May 1899., p.2. [137] Ibid.
[138] ARPO 1904-05, p.14.
[139] Foreign Pol. Internal, 453-466 of August 1921, p.2.
[140] ARPO 1923-24, p.15. [141] ARPO 1931-32, p.10.
[142] ARPO 1951-52 AD, p.10 and ARPO 1953-54 AD, p.12.
[143] ARPO 1963-64, p.4. ARPO 1967-68, p.11. ARPO 1968-69, p.7.

The limit of insurance in respect of gold bullion to be transmitted by post was increased from Rs.5000 to Rs.10000 with effect from 30th September 1975 AD.[144] The limit of compulsory insurance in respect of value payable post was raised to Rs.100 with effect from the same date. The limit of insurance was raised from Rs.10,000 to Rs.20,000 effective from 14th September, 1991 AD.[145] For speedy conveyance of correspondence the services like "Express Delivery" "Quick Mail Service" "Speed Post" and "Hybrid Mail Service" were offered.

Express delivery of Unregistered letters and Post Cards

The system of Express Delivery of unregistered letters and postcards was introduced from 1st October 1930 AD. Under this system unregistered letters and postcards prepaid by senders with a fee of two annas in addition to the usual postage and marked "Express delivery" were sent out for delivery by a special messenger provided that they were addressed to a place within five miles from a Government Telegraph office or combined Posts and Telegraphs office.[146]

The Express delivery system, which was available in respect of post cards, and letters was extended to book packets with effect from 1st August, 1938 AD.[147] (see Illustration 27 for Postcard sent under Express Delivery System). In 1949-50 AD the procedure of handling the Express delivery letters was simplified and without noting the addresses of such letters only the total number of such articles was noted in the receipt book and they were transferred in bulk to the telegraph office or to the telegraph branch of a combined office. This facility was of great use as such articles received at the offices of destinations were got delivered through special messengers. In 1950-51 AD, with a view to expediting the delivery of Express delivery articles and to ensure their delivery on Sundays when post offices remain closed, arrangements were made to have the delivery of such articles made through telegraph offices and certain combined posts and telegraphs offices.[148] In order to effect improvement in the express delivery services, the work of delivery of Express Delivery articles was transferred from Telegraphs offices to Post Offices in 1961 AD. (see Illustrtion 22 for Motor Cyclists leaving New Delhi G.P.O. with Express Mail). Thereby the delivery of Express Delivery articles earlier than the normal mail was arranged on week days. The service was suspended from 1st November 1974 AD.[149]

Quick Mail Service

The National Quick Mail Service (QMS) inter-connecting 26 headquarters of State/Union territories was introduced with effect from 1st August 1975 AD. To avail this facility the articles were to have the Postal Index Number (PIN) of the destination written on them and posted in special QMS letter boxes, with five vertical stripes and installed in selected places. There was no extra charge. The facility was available only for first class and second class articles bearing an air surcharge. Within one year of its introduction, the QMS facilities were extended to 45 Centres. Within the Circles, the regional QMS was also expanded and there were 398 regional QMS Centres by 31st December 1976. Defence forces mail posted for and

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144. ARPO 1975-76, p.6. 145. ARPO 1991-92, p.44. 146. ARPO 1930-31, p.4.
147. ARPO 1938-39, p.4 and ARPO. 1961-62, p.4. 148. ARPO 1961-62, p.4. 149. ARPO 1974-75, p.19.

from the 45 National QMS Centres was handled through the Quick Mail Service.[150]

Speed Post

The Speed Post specially designed for the Quick and reliable transmission of documents, samples and merchandise, offers a guaranteed time bound delivery. The Speed Post items are delivered within 24 hours to 72 hours as the case may be, from the latest hour fixed for booking.

This service was introduced on 1st August 1986 AD in seven cities. By 31st March 1987 AD, the service was extended to 7 more cities.[152] A point to point speed post service, customer specific contractual Speed Post service and Speed Post pick up service were introduced from 12th October 1990 AD.[153] As on 31st December 1992 AD, 317 pairs of stations were in operation under point to point speed post service in the country.[154] To cater to the demands of peripheral and satellite towns of industrial and commercial importance, extension counter facilities have also been provided in some of the towns. This service is also being used for sending money orders.

The society always requires a quicker and guaranteed system of communications to meet its growing industrial, commercial and other needs. Several private couriers, by offering a premium speedy service within a city or between cities to selected customers at a higher price, tried to attract the profitable up-market segments. While the department has monopoly over the transmission of letter mail, private couriers have claimed a share of the market for transmission of documents and parcels. The department of Posts responded to this challenge in this area of its traditional operation by introducing "SPEED POST" service. Further aimed at those who do not have access to computer or a FAX, Hybrid Mail Service has been introduced.

Hybrid Mail Service

The January 14th of 1995 AD saw introduction of Hybrid Mail Service. Here the services of a computer and postman are combined to deliver mail on the same or the next day. The modus operandi is simple. Computer terminals installed at post offices transmit the message either in English or Hindi, electronically. The sender can bring data on a floppy or there is a provision made at the counter to transfer the data on the computer. The Computer connected through the INSAT I.C Remote Area Business network, transmits the document to its destination. The receiving centre then informs the addressee over the telephone, who can either pick up the document or get it through the speed post. Twenty stations have been linked to provide this service. The minimum charge for A4 size or data of 2 kilobytes or less is Rs 40 and an additional charge of Rs 5 each for additional page or data of two kilobytes or parts thereof (only of floppies) is collected for this service. Data entry charge is Rs 10 per A4 size prepared type sheet or part.[155]

The Money Order system introduced in Indian post office further catered to the needs of remitting money through its vide spread agency.

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[150] ARPO 1975-76, p.25 ARPO 1950-51, p.4.

[151] ARPO 1986-87,pp.6, 23. [152] ARPO 1989-90, p.44. [153] ARPO 1992-93, p.45. [154] ARPO 1987-88, pp.6,23.

[155] Geeta Nair in an article entitled "Moving post-haster to modernise" in Business Standard dated 1st April 1995,p.12.

Money order system

Since 1862 AD, the management of the money order business was under the control of the Treasury Department. Sums not exceeding 150 rupees could be remitted by money order. The remitter had to obtain an order from the remitting Treasury to the payee who was required to present it at the Treasury of payment. The cost of transmitting the order was a charge over and above the commission and there was the risk of the order being lost or stolen in the post unless registered. With less than 300 offices, this system was not even in approach of the bulk of the population.[156]

On the 1st January 1880 AD the management of the money order system was transferred from the Treasury Department to the Post Office.[157] The reasons of this transfer were the extensive net work of post offices at the disposal of the Department, the greater accessibility of the people to a very large number of post offices, in the vicinity besides less holidays in the post office.[158]

In 1880 AD, the scale of commission charged for a money order amounted to about one percent subject to a minimum of 2 annas.[159] The value of a money order was not to exceed 150 rupees and the same remitter was not allowed to send in one day money orders for a sum exceeding 600 rupees in the aggregate, drawn on the same office or payable to the same person.[160]

In 1884-85 AD i.e., within 4 years of its introduction, the money order was arranged to be paid by postmen at the door of the payee instead of at the post office only. Several important offices were empowered to transact money order business without the intervention of the head post offices, thus accelerating the early payment of money orders.[161]

The sender of a money order was required to fill in a form with acknowledgement, to which a coupon was attached, on this coupon the sender could write a communication to the payee. The post office sent both, the order and coupon to destination, paid the amount to the payee, under acknowledgement which was delivered back to the sender.[162]

The use of telegraph in connection with inland money order began in the year 1884 AD.[163] Under the telegraphic money order system, the office of payment was telegraphically advised to effect payment to the payee.[164] The traffic figures indicating the extent of money order business are furnished at Table No.IV.6.[165]

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[156] Finance, Separate Revenue, A.197/203 of December 1877, and Nos.32-36 of April 1867,p.1.

[157] ARPO 1879-80, pp.4,13. Finance & Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.105-119 of January 1880, p.48. L'Union Postale, 1899, p.104, and Bombay Gazette of 21st Sept. 1850, p.151. In 1838 AD the money order service was organised and made a branch of the English Post Office. Geoffry Clarke, The Post Office of India, p.71.

[158] ARPO 1878-80, p.13 and Fin. & Comm. Sep. Rev. A.105-109 of Jan. 1880,p.48.

[159] ARPO 1879-80, p.13. [160] ARPO 1879-80, p.13.

[161] ARPO 1884-85, pp.2-13. In England and in the great majority of the countries, even by 1887 AD, the money order could be encashed only by a visit to the post office.

[162] Rep. of S.C.P.S.C., 1887, p.43 and ARPO 1884-85, p.13.

[163] ARPO 1884-85,p.3. Geoffry Clarke, The Post Office of India, p.77. The plan of paying money orders at houses of the payees was first adopted in Germany. [164] Calcutta Review, Vol.88-89 of 1889., p.126. Proc. of the S.C., P.S.C., 1887, p.44. The system was till then not in practice in the United Kingdom and the United States of America. [165] Based on the Annual Reports of the corresponding years.

The money order facility was also used for remittances of land revenue, road cess, public works cess, income tax and other miscellaneous remittances.[166]

The maximum value of a single money order was raised from 150 rupees to 600 rupees in 1888 AD.[167] The lowest rate of commission for sums not exceeding 10 rupees was 2 annas. Representations were made that it would be advantageous especially to the poorer classes of natives if a lower commission could be charged on all small sums not exceeding 5 rupees. In 1902 AD, the commission on money orders for sums not exceeding 5 rupees was reduced from 2 annas to 1 anna. The reduction led to large increase in the number of money orders of small sums. The fee for telegraphic money orders was reduced from 1st January 1960 AD and at the same time the rates for seeking remittances by "Urgent" or "Ordinary" telegram were differentiated.[168]

There had been constant growth in the money order business, during the decades ending with 1904-05 AD and 1914-15 AD. The facility afforded to the small remittances of money orders of the value of 5 rupees and below was scrapped and the rate of commission was revised in 1921 AD to 2 annas for a sum not over 10 rupees and 4 annas for each complete sum and multiple of 25 rupees or fraction thereof.[169] The increase in the minimum rate of money order commission in 1920-21 AD was partly responsible for the decrease in the number of money orders issued in the years that followed. The number of money orders issued in 1934-35 AD was more than that of 1924-25 AD, and comparatively there was decrease in the value of money orders issued in the former. However, there was an increase in the money orders of small value.[170]

In 1951 AD the rate of commission was increased to 2 annas for a sum not exceeding 5 rupees, 3 annas on sums between 5 rupees and 10 rupees, 4 annas on sums between 10 rupees and 15 rupees and 6 annas on sums between 15 rupees and 25 rupees. For a sum exceeding 25 rupees, 6 annas were charged for each complete sum of 25 rupees and fractions thereof.[171] The air fee of 1 anna on Inland air money order was abolished in 1951 AD. All money orders were carried by air under all-up scheme.[172]

There was decrease in the number of money orders issued in 1953-54 AD as compared to the figures of 1944-45 AD. (vide table No.IV.6). The decrease in the number of money orders could be attributed to the partition of the country. The value of money orders continued to increase over the years though there had been decrease in the number of money orders issued in 1991-92 AD as compared to the figures a decade earlier. The number of money orders issued showed an increasing trend and was an important source of income of the Department. The facility of sending money orders by speed post has also been made available.

Speed Post Money Order

The Speed Post Money Order service was introduced from 14th May, 1988 AD.[173] It provides the money transfer system through speed post network with a guaranteed delivery of such money orders at the doors of the recipients in any of the speed post centres. This service is provided at an additional fee of Rs.5 per speed post money order, irrespective of its

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166. ARPO 1884-85, pp.3,13, ARPO 1886-87, p.16 and ARPO 1888-89, p.14. 167. ARPO 1888-89, p.12.
168. ARPO 1902-03, p.1. ARPO 1905-06, p.1. 169. ARPO 1921-22, p.2. 170. ARPO 1924-25, p.11 and ARPO 1935-36, p.17. 171. The Finance Act (No.14) of 1953, p.59.
172. Ibid, p.59. 173. ARPO 1988-89, p.29.

value. Further such money orders are payable on holidays also (excluding three national holidays) if the customer so desires or an additional holiday delivery fee of Rs.3 is paid.[174] Moving into the satellite age, the India Post is now making use of state-of-art technology to deliver money orders. The newly introduced Satellite Money Order service despatches money to even the remotest areas with in a couple of days.

Satellite Money order

Electronic Money Order System via Satellite Communications at five locations viz., Delhi, Bangalore, Madras, Lucknow, Patna and Shimla has started functioning from 16th December,1994 AD. The service uses equipment comprising micro earth station, PC-386 and Controller (also called Very Small Aparture Terminals - VSATs). Some more such units are proposed to be added to cover new value added money transfer services and Electronic Mail.[175] The Department envisages installation of micro earth stations at a total of 75 locations in the country to expand satellite money odering.

Corporate Money Order

Corporate Money Order Service has been introduced with effect from 01st May 1995 AD. Under this service which is meant for consultancy firms, business houses, corporations etc., transfer of funds between their branches as also between the institutions and Governments and from institutions to individuals could be made. For these remittances up to Rs 1 crore could be made. For these remittances sent through Electronic Data Communication Process above Rs. 5000, a commission charge ranging from Rs 200 to Rs 3000 per Money Order is collected on the basic amount. The Corporate Money Order is initially made available from 7 Centres where Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) are readily installed namely : Lucknow, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore, Shimla, Patna and Bombay. It is operated through Computer - Satellite Network Service, and when satellite channel is not available, it operates through Computer-telephone-modern system.[175b] Another system of remittance is postal orders issued by the Post Offices.

Indian Postal Notes

Indian Postal Notes for fixed sum of money were introduced in 1883 AD. These notes were of the values viz., 2 rupees 8 annas, 1 rupee and 8 annas. A space provided on each note in which the remitter filled in the name of the person to whom the payment was to be made and the person so named signed the note which was payable at any post office selected by the remitter.[178] The Indian Postal Notes never acquired any real popularity, and as their limited sales were already on the decline, the Government abandoned the scheme in 1886 AD.[179]

Indian Postal Orders

A new facility for the remittance of small amounts was introduced in 1935 AD in the form of Indian Postal Orders. These orders were of sums of 8 annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees and 10

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174. ARPO 1986-87, p.6. 175. The Hindustan Times dated 16th December 1994, p.10. 175a. The Times of India (Delhi) 1st May 1995, p.5. 175b. The Hindustan Times dated 16th December 1994 and the Gazette of India No 233 dated 02nd June 1994, p.3. 177. ibid. In 1880 AD, the system of British Postal Orders was introduced in the United Kingdom, Proc. of S.C.P.S.C., p.45 and ARPO 1905-06, p.3. 178. ARPO 1882-83, pp.3 and 11. 179. ARPO 1885-86, p.17 and 1886-87, p.24.

annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees and 10 rupees and intermediate sums could be made up by affixing postage stamps up to a maximum of three on each order. The commission on each order was only one anna irrespective of its value. All head and sub post offices in India were authorised to sell and cash Indian Postal Orders.[180]

As the 4 denominations of Indian Postal Orders namely 8 annas, 1 rupee, 5 rupees and 10 rupees necessitated the use of postage stamps of high value to make up broken amounts and as there was also a growing public demand for orders of intermediate amounts, Indian Postal orders of 20 denominations starting from 8 annas and rising by steps of 8 annas to 10 rupees were introduced in 1939 AD.[181]

The period of currency of these postal orders was extended in 1939 AD from three to six months for payment without extra commission and to a further period of 6 months for payment with an extra commission of one anna.[182] The rate of commission remained unaltered till 1954 AD. Indian Postal Orders of the denominations of Rupees 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 and 100 are on issue in 1994 AD. The Commission charged on these orders is Rs.0.50, 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50 and 5.00 respectively. The traffic figures of business of Indian Postal Orders are furnished in Table IV.7.[183]

Growth of Non-Postal or Agency Functions

The Post Office created primarily for the despatch and delivery of letters and parcels gradually undertook numerous accountable and monetary transactions. The agency of Post Office was also utilised from time to time for providing other non-postal services also.

The primary function of the Post Office was to deliver letters at their destination. During 1854 AD the Post Office was performing non-postal services like the duty of laying palanquin daks for travellers, the management of staging bungalows, the transmission of goods by bullock train and conveyance of passengers by mail cart or parcel van. While some of such functions were withdrawn gradually few other branches of non-postal work came into its fold.

Government Bullock Cart Train

The Government carrying agency commonly called the Government Bullock train was an agency for the booking of passengers and goods.[184] In 1855-56 AD, the Government

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[180] ARPO 1935-36, p.10, Hamilton, I.G.J. An outline of Postal history and practice, p.37. The French Post Office can claim the first issue of postal notes payable to bearers which took place in 1860 AD.

[181] ARPO 1939-40, p.4.

[182] ARPO 1939-40, p.4.

[183] Figures are based on the Annual Report of the Department for the corresponding years.

[184] ARPO 1880-81, p.19. Prior to the year 1846 AD goods were transmitted by river steamer from Calcutta to Allahabad, where the Postmaster arranged for their onward transmission to destination by country cart or coolie. This agency having been found slow and imperfect, a carrying agency, called the "Bullock Train" was arranged by the Post Office in 1846 AD consisting of carts drawn by bullocks posted at relays at fixed intervals on the Grand Trunk Road between Allahabad and Delhi. A considerable acceleration was thus effected for goods, instead of

Bullock Cart Train worked regularly between Calcutta and Peshawar, maintaining at the same time various lines throughout the Presidency of Bengal.[185] The undertaking was a successful one. Heavy packages, troops and passengers were carried in safety at a moderate charge, and after paying all expenses, a profit always accrued to Government. This led to establishment of other similar organisations under the private enterprise and the Government transferred the Bullock cart train work to the Indian Carrying Company in 1862 AD.[186]

In the year 1863-64 AD, steps were taken for the gradual withdrawal of the post office from all connections with the laying palanquin daks for travellers and with the management and control of staging bungalows. In several districts in Bengal the same were taken over by the civil officers.[187] In 1864-65 AD, the post office was completely relieved of these duties in other parts of India namely North Western Provinces, Oudh, Central Provinces and Punjab.[188]

The Indian Carrying Company having failed to carry the job the post office again took over the business in 1868 AD.[189] Since then the post office maintained it utilising in some cases the railway as an auxiliary and in other cases reducing its line and closing its agencies as railway construction progressed.[190]

Owing to the railway extension, the Bullock Cart Train was gradually rounded up. During 1865-66 AD under the provincial orders from the Government of Punjab, the Military Van Dak was undertaken by the officers of the Post Office Department. The lines of passenger traffic belonging to the Military Dak were as follows:

(a) Main Meer to Peshawar.
(b) Wazirabad to Sialkot.
(c) Rawalpindi to Muree (during the summer months only).

In October 1870 AD, the Mail Cart Horse Establishment was increased on the Simla Road between Ambala and Kalka line also as to meet more fully the requirements of passengers at that time. A passenger service was also maintained on the Darjeeling road between Karagola and Siliguri, on the National line from Moradabad to Kaladonga and in Central India between Indore and Khandawa. The Punjab Military Dak service intended for the conveyance of passengers by means of horsed conveyance was finally closed in 1882 AD.[191] The lone Bullock cart train line that remained in 1883 AD between Ambala and Simla was finally closed in 1913 AD.[192]

Sale of Revenue Stamps

With a view to making one-anna revenue or receipt stamps as widely available to the public as possible in 1886 AD the post office as a Department was ordered to undertake the

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moving as before by short daily stages, travelled day and night at an average of about 2 miles an hour. The lines of carriage were gradually extended. Sen, Ananda Gopal, The Indian Post Office, p.146. In 1843-44 AD when the Mail cart establishment was organised in the North West Provinces, trucks and palanquins carriages for passengers were added to the establishment.

[185] ARPO 1880-81, p.19. [186] ARPO 1863-64, p.10. [187] Ibid. [188] ARPO 1864-65, p.8.

[189] Financial, Separate Revenue, Post Office, A.32/50 of February 1868 and ARPO 1868-69, p.14.

[190] Fin. Sep. Rev., A.57-58 of Aug. 1868, p.1 and ARPO 1872-73, p.11, ARPO 1873-74, p.8 and ARPO 1876-77, p.14. [191] ARPO 1882-83, p.20. [192] ARPO 1882-83, p.18,21 and ARPO 1912-13, p.3.

sale of such stamps and the service continued to be offered by the post office.[195] On 1st October 1905 AD, postage stamps of the denominations of half anna and one anna were made available for the payment either of postage or of the stamp duty payable in all cases in which a one anna adhesive revenue (receipt) stamp was required to be used as a means under the Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899 AD). In connection with this, stamps, showing on their face that they were "Postage and Revenue" stamps were brought into use.[196] (see Illustration 9 for Revenue Stamps issued from time). Among the non-postal or agency functions undertaken, the Post Office Savings Bank work formed an important portion of the Post Office routine.

Post Office Savings Bank

In 1868 AD, the Secretary of State had enquired whether the Postal Savings Bank system could be introduced in India.[197] But at that stage, there were reasons to apprehend that the Indian Post office was not so organised as to enable it to undertake the duties of Government Savings Bank.[198] The Post Office of India as it then existed was solely an organisation confined to the receipt, conveyance and distribution of letters, newspapers, and parcels, the insurance and value payable institutions were unknown to it and the money order business was being managed by the Treasury Department.

The District Treasuries whether under the charge of the Collectors or branches of the Presidency Banks were the only recourse to help extend throughout India the system of Government Savings Bank. Such Banks, as then existed only at the presidency towns, had met with a certain measure of success.[199] In the year 1870 AD, Government Savings banks were set up in the interior of the country under the title "District Savings Banks" in Government Treasuries.[200]

The "District Savings Banks" under the management of the Treasury Department were necessarily restricted to the headquarter stations of districts and other large places where Government Treasuries existed, and the extension of this facility towards thrift to smaller localities in the interior of districts could only be secured by the employment of some additional agency.

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[195] Finance and Commerce, Sep. Rev. A730-731 of July 1866, p.1. ARPO 1886-87, p.12. ARPO 1905-06, p.13.

[196] Mr. A de Malarces', Historie Generale des Caisses d'e pargne" quoted in L'Union Postale of 1899, pp.103, 104, 123.. The idea of a scheme for a general savings bank to be worked by the post office was motted by Mr. Whitbread a member of the British Parliament in 1807 AD. It was in 1859 AD, that Charles W. Sikes of Yorkshire, who had been studying popular institutions for a long time showed the great practicalness of a savings bank managed by the post office and especially pointed out that deposits made to the post office were nothing else than money orders drawn by a private person on the postmaster general and withdrawals of deposits nothing more than money orders drawn by the Postmaster General on a private person. Mr. Sikes' plan met the approval and in 1861 AD the British Post Office Savings Bank came into operation.

[198] Financial, Accounts, A.41/45 of August 1868, p.1.

[199] Ibid and 1103-1120 of November 1888, KWs, p.14 The first Savings Banks is called. "Government Savings Bank" were opened at the three Presidency towns on the following dates:
Calcutta - 1st November 1833 AD
Madras - 1st May 1834 AD
Bombay - 1st of May 1835 AD
Geoffry Clarke, The Post office of India, p.81. Between 1863 AD and 1865 AD the management of the savings bank was transferred to the presidency banks.

[200] Finance and Commerce, Accounts, A.1103-1120, of November 1888, p.1.

With the undertaking and conducting its value payable, insurance and money order business in 1877 AD, 1878 AD, and 1880 AD respectively, the Post Office of India became a reputed commercial undertaking.

In order to extend the operations of the banks into the interior of districts, the postal department was selected as a suitable agency and on 1st April 1882 AD, Savings Banks were opened under the management of the Post Office all over India except in the Presidency of Bombay, where the Presidency Bank held privileges which it was unwilling to forgo. In the Presidency of Madras also the introduction of Post Office Savings Bank was limited to small places and in Bengal the Post Office established no Savings Bank in Calcutta or in the neighbouring towns of Howrah.[201] One immediate result of the new scheme was the addition of 4,046 Post Office Savings Banks to the 197 Districts and State Railway Savings Banks which previously existed.[202]

The Government of India entered into negotiations with Presidency Banks and finally the Government having agreed to fixed payment in lieu of the commission payable under the Bank agreements for the management of the Government Savings Bank, the establishment of Post Office Savings Bank throughout India was authorised from 1883 AD.[203]

On the 1st April 1886 AD the District Savings Banks opened in the interior of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies were abolished. . The transactions of the Presidency Banks, however, remained confined to the Presidency towns till 1st October,1896 AD.[204]

The Post Office Savings Banks at first worked alongside the District Savings Bank, it being made a condition that no one who had an account at a District Savings Bank might open an account in his own name in Post Office Savings Bank. This was cancelled in June 1882 AD and thence-forth any person was permitted to have an account opened both with the District Savings Bank and the Post Office Savings Bank. Consequent on abolition of the District Savings Banks in 1886 AD, the balances were transferred to the Post Office Savings Bank.[205]

The sets of Post Office Savings Bank Rules were prepared for the guidance of the public and instruction of the Department. They were for the most part based on those of the District Savings Banks with initial differences in few points and were assimilated as time went on.[206] The new rules comprehended the principal provisions namely that any person could deposit money on his own and on behalf of a minor if a relative.[207] No provision existed at first for acceptance of deposits in the Post Office Savings for government servants, public bodies, charitable or social institutions or as security for government servants, but in September 1882 AD the provisions of the District Rules mentioned above were extended to the Post Office Savings Banks with certain modifications taking place in 1884 AD.[208]

In 1882 AD, the minimum sum deposit was fixed as four annas and no sum that was not in a multiple of 4 annas was accepted as deposit. The maximum yearly amount of deposits was limited to 500 rupees and the only exception permitted was in the case of Public Accounts and of Regimental and Police Accounts. The maximum limit of the total deposits was fixed at 3000 rupees by limiting the maximum monthly payment of interest of 9 rupees and 6 annas. Withdrawals were allowed once a week which was defined as the period from Monday to Saturday, so that money might be withdrawn on Saturday and again on the following Monday.[209]

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[202] ARPO 1882-83, p.12. [203] ibid, p.121. [204] ibid, p.16, ARPO 1886-87, p.24 and Fin. & Comm, Sep. Rev. A 1533-1533 C of December 1886, p.3. [205] Fin. & Com. Accounts, A.1103-1120 of November, 1888, KWs,p.21. [206] Fin. & Comm., Accounts, A.1103-1120 of Nov. 1888, KWs, p.12. [207] ibid. [208] ibid.

The rate of interest of the Post Office Savings Bank was fixed according to the rates of interest of the safest investments. The interest was allowed at the rate of 3.75 percent per annum, but it was calculated only at 3 pies on every complete sum of five rupees.[210] The special concession by which deposits made during the first 4 days of the month were allowed to bear interest for the month was extended to Post Office Savings Bank. It was found that the absence of such a provision was felt to be a hardship by persons receiving monthly salaries which constituted the majority of depositors.[211] The rate of interest allowed on Savings Bank Deposit was reduced from 3 3/4 percent to 3-1/8 percent in 1894 AD.[212]

The balances held in the Post Office Savings Bank accounts varied with the political and economic conditions of the country. War and war scares, famine year showed a considerable decrease and a better agricultural season an improvement in the Deposits. With the spread of the network of post offices, the number of savings bank accounts and the total amount standing at the credit of depositors increased gradually. The Savings bank business transacted in the post office is indicated in Table IV.8.[213]

During the World War I, there were unprecedented withdrawals. The balance dropped from 23.17 crores of rupees in 1913-14 AD to 14.89 crores of rupees in 1914-15 AD.[214] Later on there was a steady recovery. The decrease was also due to the separation of Burma in 1937 AD. But the general trend, however, was steadily upward, (Vide Table No. IV.8.). The total balances of 1938-39 AD which were 81.86 crores of rupees came down to 59.61 crores of rupees in 1940-41 AD was due mainly to World War II, but to a certain extent to be attributable to the modification with effect from 1st August 1940 AD of rule 9 of Savings Bank Rules which prohibited opening of an account with a deposit of less than two rupees.[215] The decrease in the number of Savings Bank accounts and the balances at credit of the depositors to certain extent was as a result of the political unrest and the "Quit India" Movement.[216]

The limits of annual and total deposits allowed in any account which was 750 rupees and raised to 1500 rupees in 1943 AD was further increased to 5000 rupees during the year 1944-45 AD. The raising of the limits of annual and total deposits allowed in any account increased the balances of the Savings Bank accounts.[217]

As a result of partition of the country in 1947 AD, however, the number of Savings Bank accounts and the total balances decreased from 39.37 lakhs and 142 crores of rupees respectively in 1946-47 AD to 31.53 lakhs and 128.11 crores of rupees respectively in 1947-48 AD.[218]

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[209] Fin. & Com., Accounts, A.1103-1120 of Nov. 1888, KWs.p.22 and ARPO 1882-83,p.12.

[210] L'Union Postale 1899, p.120 and ARPO 1882-83,p.12.

[211] Fin. & Com., Accounts, A.1103-1120 of Nov. 1888, KWs. p.22. [212] ARPO 1900-01. p.25.

[213] Figures are based on the Annual Reports of the Department for the corresponding years.

[214] ARPO 1914-15, p.8. [215] ARPO 1940-41,p.14. As a result of this modification, the average balance at the credit of a single depositor increased in 1940-41 AD vide table No.IV.9.

[216] ARPO 1940-41,p.14 and ARPO 1945-46, p.9. [218] ARPO 1948-49, p.67

Since 1947-48 AD the deposits and the annual balances had responded to the better facilities and economic progress of the country. The number of depositors increased from 31.53 lakhs in 1947-48 AD to 50.70 lakhs in 1953-54 AD while the total balances increased from 128.11 crores of rupees to 231.95 crores of rupees. The average balance per depositor had also risen from 406 rupees in 1947-48 AD to 457.50 rupees in 1953-54 AD.[219] There were 2.5 millions of Post Office savings accounts with a closing balance of 4023.26 crores of rupees as on 31st March 1992 AD. These increases are all the more striking because during this period, a considerable expansion of the Savings Bank facilities were also provided by Commercial Banks.

Defence Savings Account

Defence Savings Account was introduced on 1st January 1941 AD. From 1st July, 1946 AD no new accounts were allowed to be opened and no deposits in the existing accounts were accepted. These accounts were discontinued from 31st May 1959 AD.[220]

Gift Coupons

The Gift Coupons which were available in the denominations of Rs. 5, 10, 50, 100 and 1000 were introduced with effect from 1st July 1957 AD. The coupons were enclosed in attractive covers and had been designed for presentation as gift on auspicious occasions like marriage, birthday and the like. A Coupon when presented by the donee at any post office enables him to obtain National Plan Savings Certificates of an equivalent denomination. Sale of Gift coupons was discontinued in 1981 AD.[221]

Cumulative Time Deposit (C.T.D.) Schemes

The 5 year and 10 year Cumulative Time Deposit Scheme was introduced from 2nd January 1959 AD and the 15 year on 1st June 1962 AD. The object of this scheme was to enable depositors to provide for specific purposes by means of periodical deposits repayable in a lump sum inclusive of interest at the end of a specified period. The deposit could be made once in every calendar month and could be of Rs.5, 10, 20, 50, 100, and 200 subject to the total limit of Rs.12,000/- provided that the amount of deposit made at the time of opening the account does not vary during the currency of the account.[222] With effect from 1st November 1973 AD five and fifteen year Cumulative Deposit accounts were discontinued. The ten year Cumulative Deposit Scheme was discontinued with effect from 1st April 1986 AD.[223]

5 Year Prize Bonds and Premium Prize Bonds

A new type of Prize Bonds was introduced and put on sale through Post Office with effect from 1st April 1960 AD. These Prize Bonds provided a return on the money invested as well as chances of winning handsome prizes. These were discontinued from 1st January 1963 AD. A new series of these Bonds known as Premium Prize Bonds were issued with effect

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219. ARPO 1948-49, p.67 and ARPO 1953-54, p.88. 220. ARPO 1959-60, p.35. 221. ARPO 1957-58, p.5. ARPO 1981-82, p.8. 222. ARPO 1958-59 pp,4,5. 223. ARPO 1972-73, p.17. ARPO 1985-86, p.27.

from the 1st January 1963 AD. These were discontinued from 31st December 1964 AD.[224]

Time Deposit Account

The 1 year, 3 year and 5 year Time Deposit Accounts were introduced on 16th March 1970 AD and the 2 year on 1st August 1973 AD. In Time Deposit accounts introduced from 16th March 1970 AD, a depositor can keep amounts in multiples of Rs.50 for one, three or five years, the rate of interest being 5 1/2 percent, 6 1/2 percent and 6 3/4 percent respectively. The interest in respect of these accounts is payable annually. The aforesaid interest in respect of these accounts is payable annually. The rates of interest were increased in 1971 AD to 6 percent, 7 percent, and 7 1/4 percent respectively. The rate of interest on 1 year and 2 year Time Deposit Accounts was increased and fixed as 9.5 percent and 10 percent respectively with effect from 10th May 1985 AD.[225]

Sale of Savings Boxes through Post Offices

The sale of Savings Boxes to the public through post offices was introduced in June 1968 AD. The Savings Boxes were supplied to the head and sub offices by the Postal Store Depots. These pretty boxes are useful to the children to cultivate the habit of thrift. This habit developed while they are young, in course of time, will have much impact on the economy of the country because they are the future citizens of the land.

5 Year Recurring Deposit Accounts

Another type of account introduced from 1st April 1970 AD is the Recurring Deposit Account which is similar to a 5 year C.T.D. account with the difference that the interest earned is 6 1/4 percent per annum. The amount payable inclusive of interest at the end of 5 years of an account of this type of Rs.5 denomination worked out to Rs.350. With effect from 15th January 1971 AD the rate of interest was revised. As a result the amount payable in the account referred to increased to Rs.355. In respect of accounts of other denominations, proportionate increase had been made.[227]

Post Office Monthly Income Account Scheme

The Post Office Monthly Income Account Scheme was introduced with effect from 15th August, 1987 AD. The scheme is attractive for retiring persons, and other persons who desire to have a regular monthly income. The scheme is open to individuals only. The minimum deposit is Rs.5000 or multiples thereof subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 Lakhs in a single account and Rs.4 Lakhs in a joint account. Maturity period is six years and interest at the rate of 12% is payable monthly.[228]

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[224] ARPO 1962-63, p.11. ARPO 1963-64, p.9. [225] ARPO 1970-71 (Activities) p.30. ARPO 1986-87, p.9.

[226] ARPO 1968-69, p.5. In 1968 AD as they were sold at the rate of Rs. 1.30 per box.

[227] ARPO (Activities) 1970-71, p.31. ARPO 1985-86, p.27. Under protected scheme in Recurring Deposit Account the unit has been raised from Rs.20 to Rs.50.

National Savings Scheme,1987

For the benefit of Income tax payers, a National Savings Scheme was introduced with effect from 1st April 1987 AD. In this scheme initially 50% of the amount deposited up to Rs.20,000 in a year was exempted for income tax.
The entire amount deposited in such an account, subject to a limit of Rs.30,000 in the year was safe from income tax under Section 80-CCA of the Income Tax Act.[229] This scheme was discontinued on 1st October 1992 AD[230]

National Savings Account Scheme, 1992

The National Savings Account Scheme, 1992 was introduced with effect from 1st October 1992 AD. A separate account has to be opened with a minimum of Rs.100 and all deposits are to be in multiple of 100 rupees. Any number of deposits can be made during a month. Interest at the rate of 11 percent is allowed for a calendar month as in savings account. The depositor can withdraw the amount or close the account after expiry of four years from the end of the year in which the account is opened. The interest accrued is deemed to have been credited in the account at the end of each year and can be withdrawn by the depositor every year.[231]

Mahila Samridhi Yojana, 1993

The Mahila Samridhi Yojana, aimed at economic empowerment of the rural women, was launched from 1st October, 1993 AD. In this scheme an incentive of 25% per annum, subject to maximum of Rs.75 per annum is granted to the rural woman who makes a deposit under the Scheme.[232]

Government Securities

Simultaneously, with the introduction of savings bank, the Post Office undertook on behalf on the public, the purchase and sale of Government promissory notes in whole rupees from 10 rupees to 1000 rupees and their transfer at the option of investor, to the Comptroller General for custody. The total investments on this account increased from 8800 rupees in 1882-83 AD to 2.94 lakhs of rupees in 1884-85 AD.[233]

In 1886 AD, this privilege was limited to bonafide depositors in the Savings Bank and that the amount invested for any one depositor was not to exceed 1000 rupees in one year or 3000 rupees in all.[234] There was steady increase from year to year in the nominal value of the securities held in the custody of the Comptroller General. But much advantage did not appear to have been taken of the opportunities offered to the public of purchasing Government securities through the agency of the Department. The trend of total investments

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228. ARPO 1987-88, p.30. 229. ARPO 1986-87, p.25. ARPO 1987-88, p.30. 230. ARPO 1993-94, p.37.
231. ARPO 1993-94, p.37. 232. ARPO 1993-94, p.49. 234. ARPO 1882-83, p.3 and ARPO 1884-85, p.21

made in Government Securities through the agency of the Post Office is reflected in Table No.IV.9.[235]

In 1904 AD, by dispensing with the charges laid on account of fee, commission or brokerage in connection with the transactions and the interest on securities and investment of fractional amounts of not less than 10 rupees being permitted, with effect from 1st August 1906 AD the investment certificates were sold for cash over the counter at any head post office. This resulted in the increase of the total investments held in the custody of Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs on behalf of the depositors rose considerably during the decades ending with 1914-15 AD and 1924-25 AD. The striking increase in the sale of Government securities in 1934-35 AD was due to the rise of the price of 3 1/2 percent paper.[236] The Post Office facilitated investments in the shape of the Post Office Cash and Savings Certificates also.

Five Year Cash Certificates

In 1917 AD, the Post Office undertook the duty of issuing 5 Year Cash Certificates. The procedure dealing with the 5 Year Post Office Cash Certificates was at first a little too complicated for the less educated portion of the public. It was simplified soon and certificates were then made presentable for discharge at any post office in the country which transacted Savings Bank business.[237] During 1922 AD new five year six percent income tax free bonds, and ten year six percent income tax free bonds were issued for sale through post office.[238]

The total number of certificates issued in 1917-18 AD was 46.94 lakhs of rupees with a face value of 12.9 crores of rupees.[239] The total amount invested was to the tune of 6.10 crores of rupees, 9.95 and 5.47 crores in 1924-25 AD, 1934-35 AD and 1944-45 AD respectively. There was decrease in sale of cash certificates in 1940 AD. The issue of Post Office Cash Certificates was discontinued from 16th June 1947 AD.[240]

10 Year Defence Savings Certificates and Defence Savings Stamps

On the 6th of June 1940 AD, Post Office 10 year Defence Savings Certificates of the denominations of rupees 10, 50, 100, 500, and 1000 were introduced and they carried a compound interest of 3.5 percent approximately.[241]

To enable the least affluent class of investor to purchase these certificates, Defence Savings Stamps of the denominations of 4 annas, 8 annas and 1 rupee each were introduced towards the end of August 1940 AD. The issue of Defence Savings Certificates was discontinued from October 1943 AD the date on which the National Savings Certificates were introduced.[242]

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235. Based on the Annual Reports of the Department for the corresponding years.
236. ARPO 1914-15, p.8, ARPO 1924-25, p.15 & 1934-35, p.15. ARPO 1904-05, p.1., ARPO 1906-07, p..1.
237. Commerce & Industry, B.5 of January 1918, p.1.   238. ARPO 1922-23. p.3.   239. ARPO 1917-18, p.1.
240. ARPO 1924-25, p.16, ARPO 1934-35, p.15, ARPO 1944-45, p.14 and ARPO 1948-49, p.25. 241. ARPO 1940-41, p.2.
242. Ibid, p.1, ARPO 1948-49, p.25. A card was supplied for affixing the stamps and when the total value thereof amounted to 10 rupees they were exchanged for a Defence Savings Certificate of equivalent value.

Post Office National Savings Certificates

12 Year National Savings Certificates were introduced from 1st October, 1943 AD. The 7 years and 5 years certificates were introduced on 1st June 1948 AD. These were available in denominations of rupees 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000.[243]

The issue of 5 years Post Office National Savings Certificates was discontinued in 1953 AD and the holders were authorised to keep them for a further period of 7 years after their maturity at their option.[244]

The 12 years, 7 years and 5 years Post Office Cash Certificates issued in 1953-54 AD amounted to rupees 26.54 crores, 1.49 crores and 0.16 crores respectively and the total amount invested in 1953-54 AD in National Savings Certificates of all types and denominations amounted to rupees 28.19 crores. Issue of 7 year and 12 year series of these certificates was discontinued on 31st May 1957 AD.[245]

Post Office 10 Year National Plan Certificates

These certificates were introduced with effect from 10th May 1954 AD. These were available in the denominations of rupees 5, 10, 25, 50, 100 and 500.[246] Issue of these certificates was discontinued from 1st June, 1957 AD.

12 Year National Plan Saving Certificates

12 Year National Plan Saving Certificates were introduced from 1st June 1957 AD. These certificates were obtainable in the denominations of Rs. 5, 10, 50, 100, 1000 and 5000 and were encashable at any time after the completion of 12 months from the date of issue, as against a period of 18 months in the case of 12 Year National Saving Certificates. These certificates were discontinued with the close of business on 14th November 1962 AD.[247]

Government Prize Bonds

Sale of 5 year interest free Government Prize Bonds which were issued in the denominations of Rs.5 and Rs.100 was undertaken by all Head Offices and Departmental Sub Offices from the 1st April 1960 AD.[248]

12 Year National Defence Certificates

12 Year National Defence Certificates carrying a higher rate of interest were introduced from 15th November 1962 AD in place of the twelve year National Plan Saving Certificates. The maximum limit of holding of these certificates by an individual was also raised from Rs.25,000 to Rs.35,000. These certificates were discontinued from 14th March 1970 AD.[249]

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[243] ARPO 1944-45, p.14. [244] ARPO 1953-54. [245] ARPO 1953-54, pp.90.95.
[246] ARPO 1953-54, p.191. [247] ARPO 1957-58, p.5. [248] ARPO 1960-61, p.7. [249] ARPO 1962-63, p.11.

10 Year Defence Deposit Certificates

Deposits for the issue of 4 1/2% Ten year Defence Deposit certificates were accepted at all the departmental post offices with effect from 1st August 1963 AD. These certificates were discontinued from 14th March 1970 AD.

10 Year National Savings Certificates (Ist Issue)

National Savings Certificates (1st Issue) were introduced with effect from 1st April 1965 AD. These were discontinued with the close of business on 14th March 1970 AD.

7 Year National Savings Certificates of II to V Issues

7 Year National Savings Certificates of II, III and IV issues were introduced from 16th March 1970 AD and the V Issue with effect from 1st February 1974 AD. The fifth issue of the said certificates comprising of the denomination of Rs.100 were sold through the post offices with effect from 1st February 1974 AD. The fifth Issue certificates were issued to individuals only.[250]

The sale of 7 year National Savings Certificates II and III Issues were discontinued with the close of business on the 30th September 1988 AD and 31st December 1980 AD respectively and the IV and V issues with the close of business on 30th April 1981 AD.

6 Year National Savings Certificates VI & VII Issues

Two series of National Saving Certificates, VI issue and VII issue, were introduced with effect from 1st May 1981 AD. VI Issue certificates were in denominations of Rs.10, 50, 100, 500, 1000 and 5000. Their maturity period was six years. Interest was compounded half yearly for certificates of VI issue and was payable on encashment. The maturity value of a certificate of VI issue of denomination of Rs.100 after 6 years was Rs.201.50 and proportionately for other denominations. Interest on certificates of the VII issue was payable half yearly; the certificates were encashable at par after expiry of six years. These issues were discontinued with the close of business on 31st March 1989 AD.

10 Year Social Security Certificates

A new series of Saving Certificates, namely, Social Security Certificates was introduced from 1st June 1982 AD in denomination of Rs.500 and Rs.1000. The maturity value after 10 years was Rs. 1500 and Rs.3000 respectively. Purchasers of these certificates were to be between 18 and 45 years of age and in sound health. In the event of the death of the

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250. ARPO 1972-73, p.117. 251. ARPO 1981-82, p.8. 252. ARPO 1982-83, pp.7,8.

purchaser within two years of purchase due to some natural cause, excluding self injury or suicide, or after 2 years regardless of the cause, full maturity amount was payable to the nominee or legal heir of the purchaser. These certificates were discontinued from 31st August 1989 AD.[252]

Annuity Certificates

National Savings Annuity Certificates I, II and III series were issued in 1954 AD, 1958 AD and 1976 A.D respectively. These were discontinued in 1958 AD, 1971 AD, and 1980 AD respectively.

5 Year National Development Bonds

In the form of five year National Development Bonds, a new savings scheme was introduced with effect from 31st August 1977 AD. The issue of these bonds was closed with the business on 30th April 1981 AD.[253]

5 Year Indira Vikas Patras (IVPs)

A new series of certificates called as Indira Vikas Patras (IVPs) have been introduced from 19th November 1986 AD. There is less documentation involved in the sale of IVPs as the purchaser is not required to submit any formal application. The IVPs are in the denomination of Rs.500 Rs.1000 and Rs.5000. The sale value of each `patra' is half the indicated denomination of the IVP. The holder is paid double the amount of sale value 5 years after the date of sale.[254]

5½ Year Kisan Vikas Patras

The Post Office took another step forward with the introduction of Kisan Vikas Patras with effect from 1st April 1988 AD. The maturity period of these certificates is 5 1/2 years commencing from the date of issue. Any number of certificates in the denomination of Rs.1,000 Rs.5,000 and Rs.10,000 can be purchased. The amount inclusive of interest payable on encashment after expiry of maturity period shall be Rs.2000 for the denomination of Rs.1000 and at proportionate rate for any further denomination.[255]

National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue)

A new series of National Savings Certificates (VIII Issue) was introduced with effect from 8th May 1989 AD. The maturity period of the certificate is six years and it carries interest of 12% compounded half yearly and payable on maturity after 6 years. The amount invested qualifies for rebate in income tax under Section 80(c) of the Income Tax Act.[256]

Thus the agency of post office was utilised for collection of funds for Defence and Nation building purposes by introducing series of Post Office savings certificates of different denominations and types from time to time.

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[253] ARPO 1977-78, p.7.

[254] ARPO 1985-86, p.27.

[255] ARPO 1987-88, p.44, and ARPO 1988-89, p.31.

[256] ARPO 1988-89, p.46.

Besides as a banker, the post office performed the duties of the insurance agent also.

Postal Life Insurance

With the object of encouraging providence among the members of the Post Office, scheme of Life Insurance for the benefit of all its employees was introduced on 1st February 1884 AD. Since that date any postal servant whether European or Native was provided with the option of insuring his life on the security of the Government up to a maximum limit of 4000 rupees. The rate of interest per annum was fixed as 3 1/2 percent. The Post Office was the only branch of the public service in India, the members of which then enjoyed the privilege of insuring their lives under the State guarantee.[257]

In 1898 AD, the Postal Life Insurance scheme was extended to all Government servants whose pay was audited in Civil or Public Works Accounts Offices, and to all members of establishment of the Military Department subject to civil rules whose pay was audited by Military Account Office.[258]

A bonus at the rate of 2 percent per annum in case of whole life assurance and 1 percent in the case of Endowment Assurances was granted to holders of policies since 1907 AD.[259]

In 1932-33 AD, the maximum amount for which the Postal Life Insurance might be extended in an Endowment Assurance purchased was raised from 10,000 rupees to 20,000 rupees.[260] Since 1932 AD the reversionary bonus at the rate of one per thousand sum assured on both the Whole Life Assurance and Endowment Assurance policies came to be paid. In addition to the above bonus, an interim bonus of 3/4th and 5/6th of the above rates were paid on the policies in force in 1937 AD and 1942 AD respectively.[261] The interest allowed on the fund reduced to 3% in 1940 AD was again increased to 3.42 percent in 1947-48 AD.[262] The total policies in force on the 31st March 1954 AD were 117,685 for the aggregate amount of 27.04 crores of rupees.[263]

Besides this beneficiary service to the community of Government servants, the Department had undertaken other public utility services like the sale of Quinine and receiving of Salt revenues etc.

Receiving of Salt Revenue

The duty of receiving money on behalf of the Salt Department the duty and price of salt intended for the merchants and others for the purchase of salt under the through traffic system, from salt Depots, at Sambhar, Pachbadra and Khewra was undertaken by the Post Office in the North Western Provinces, Oudh and Punjab in 1890 AD.[264] The system was extended to the Central provinces, Rajputana and Central India in 1892 AD.[265] The system was later confined to post offices at stations where there were no treasuries and Sub-Treasuries and a charge of 8 annas was imposed on every 100 rupees paid in by the purchase of salt.

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[257] Proc. of S.C., P.S.C. of 1887, p.45. [258] ARPO 1897-98, p.2. [259] ARPO 1914-15, p.11

[260] ARPO Finance, Sep. Revenue, F.No.17(16)-F/39 of 1939, p.1. [261] Ibid

[262] Fin. Sep. Rev. F.No.7(84) F/41 of 1941 p.1. and ARPO 1947-48, p.17.

[263] ARPO 1953-54, p.37. [264] ARPO 1890-91, p.1. [265] ARPO 1892-93, p.3.

Payment of Indian Military Pensions

Since 1889-90 AD, the agency of the Post Office was used for payment of native military pensions in Punjab.[266] The work of re-calling sepoys on leave was transferred from the District authorities to the Post Office in 1890-91 AD. The system worked successfully. There were more than a thousand post offices paying pensions to 1.33 lakhs of military pensioners in 1953-54 AD[267]

Sale of Quinine

In 1892 AD, the services of the Post Office were at the disposal of local governments and administration for the retail sale of quinine in small closed packets. The Post Office merely acted as an agency for the sale, each postmaster received a small permanent advance of quinine and a commission of one anna in the rupee on his sales and was required to remit by money order to the supplying depot the price of all supplies intended for in lieu of the original permanent advance.[268] The sale of quinine through post office continued even after 1953-54 AD.[269]

Sale of Non-Judicial Stamps

In 1894-95 AD, Non-Judicial and Court fee stamps were sold at a large number of post offices, except in Burma. The Postmaster acted as regards these stamps, as a private vendor and the stamps did not form part of the Post Office balance.[270]

Collection of Customs Duty

Customs duty due on articles received by the foreign post and delivered in India is collected by the post office. For the purposes of bringing these sums into account, the postage stamps overprinted with the words "Postal Service" were introduced with effect from 1st April 1895 AD. The stamps were not sold to the public, but postmasters only were authorised to purchase them from the Treasury. The use of these stamps was discontinued in 1907 AD. Customs Revenue stamps came to be issued separately.

Broadcast Receiver Licences

The issue of Broadcast Receiver Licences through the post office was introduced in 1924 AD. These licences were available for the use of receiving sets only and 1167 licences were issued and renewed during 1925-26 AD.[271]

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266. ARPO 1899-90, p.1. 267. ARPO 1953-54, p.37.
268. Fin. & Com. A.762-765 of August 1892, p.1. ARPO 1893-94, p.34 and Fin. & Com. Sep. Rev. B.No.507-508 of Dec. 1903, p.1.
269. ARPO 1953-54, p.37. 270. ARPO 1894-95, p.10.
271. ARPO 1925-26, p.27.

Under the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933 AD. Dealers Possession Licences were issued and 707 such licences were issued in 1934-35 AD.[272] The work connected with the issue of Broadcast Receiver Licences, Fixed Station licences, Import Licences, Mobile Station Licences, Possession Licences and Substitute Licences was attended to by the post office.[273] The Department retained 10 percent of the first two kinds of licences i.e. Broadcast Receiver and Fixed Station Licences and whole of the revenue for the remainder that is the collection on licences other than the said two types towards charges for licencing and to be spent on the inspection of anti-piracy staff.[274] A fee of 10 rupees per annum was charged for new licences as well as for renewed licences. The total number of Broadcast Receiver Licences issued increased from 18,000 in 1934-35 AD to 2,00,000 in 1944-45 AD.[275] The number of licences issued and renewed increased with the normal growth in the number of radio listeners and antipiracy drives conducted by the Department. The total number of Broadcast Receiver licences issued including renewals was 809,537 and licences other than Broadcast Receiver Licences were 41,267 in 1953-54 AD.[276]

The renewal licence fee for Radio sets was reduced from Rs.15 to 10 per annum in respect of Radio sets (domestic) used in the villages of the country in 1957-58 AD. The concession was given with a view to making the rural population more radio minded. The system of issuing licences to the radio sets was abolished in 1984 AD.

Distribution of Income Tax Return Forms

On the request of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Department introduced the scheme of distribution of Income Tax Return Forms (Forms 2 and 3) free of cost to members of public through selected post offices in large cities in 1967 AD. During 1968-69 AD the scheme was introduced on all India basis.[277]

Collection of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) premia through post office was discontinued with effect from 1st May 1994 AD.[277a]

Central Recruitment Fee Stamps

To meet the heavy demand of Indian Postal Orders in lieu of payment of recruitment examination fees conducted by the Union Public Service Commission/Staff Selection Commission, the "Central Recruitment Fee" stamps were introduced for sale through head offices and selected sub offices in all cities from 23rd December 1986 AD. These stamps can be affixed to the application forms in lieu of Indian Postal Orders.[278] Sale of these CRF stamps has been extended to all Departmental Post Offices from 1st January 1993 AD.[279]

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[272] ARPO 1934-35, p.29. [273] Ministry of Communication, F.No.BRL.1-76/56 of 1956, p.12.

[274] Ibid. [275] ARPO 1934-35, p29 and ARPO 1944-45, p.23.

[276] ARPO 1953-54, p.54 and ARPO 1951-52, pp.37, 38. A graded system of surcharge was introduced in 1951 AD in place of the uniform rate of surcharge irrespective of the period of delay.The amount of surcharge was fixed at rupees 5, 10 and 15 respectively for renewals after the grace period of 14 days from the expiry of licence. within one month after one month but within 3 months and after 3 months respectively for Broadcast Receiver Licences, Possession Licences and Demonstration Licences. For other types of licences the rates, however, differed.

[277] ARPO 1967-68, P.4 and ARPO 1968-69,P.5. The Income Tax Department paid to the P&T department for the service at the rate of Rs.10 per thousand forms. [277A] Department of Posts communication No 7-5/90-CI dated 05th April 1994 AD.

[278] ARPO 1986-87, p.7. [279] ARPO 1993-94, p.36

Sale of Passport Application Forms

From 1st November 1992 AD the sale of passport application forms on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs, at áll selected post offices, numbering 834, and another 1038 Sub Post Offices in the country was introduced. This arrangement was made to ensure easy availability of the forms.[280] During 1993-94 AD all head post offices and about 1000 selected sub post offices were authorised to sell these forms.[281] Pass Port Fee stamps were also sold by post offices. Consequent on the stoppage of sale of passport application forms through post offices, the sale of passport application forms through post offices, the sale of passport for stamps was discontinued in July 1994 AD.[282]

The gradual process of introduction of numerous postal and non-postal functions in the post office and the extension in the area of postal operations gave an impetus for an increased traffic affecting the organisational growth of India Post.

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280. ARPO 1992-93, p.45.

28l. ARPO L993-94, p.36. 282. Department of Posts communication No 7-2/86-PO dated 30th June 1994, p.l.

Chapter Five

ORGANISATIONAL GROWTH OF INDIA POST

In order to create uniformity in administration and practice, the Post Office Organisations of different presidencies were brought under the control of the Director General of Post Offices in 1854 AD. The District Post was, continued to be, managed by District officers or other local officials independently. The history of the development of the organisational growth of India Post is in other words the account of the process of growth of its administrative structure and operative formations.

Administrative Set Up

In the administrative hierarchy of the Department, the Director General is assisted by the heads of circles viz., the Postmasters General later known as the Chief Postmasters General in the circle level who in turn were assisted by the staff comprising of the Superintendents of Post Offices who were the Divisional in charge. The Inspectors of Post Offices in charge of sub-divisions and Mail Oversees were stationed at different places for supervisory work in their respective area.

The account of the growth of the establishment of the office of Director General of Post Offices enables one to understand the extent of development of the structure of the postal organisation as a whole.

Director General of Post Offices

In 1854 AD the establishment of the office of Director General of Post Offices consisted of four writers and two peons.[1] In 1855 AD he was authorised to pass the contingent and rainy season charges up to 2500 rupees a month, without reference to Government and subsequently in the same year his authority was extended to passing charges of the same amount on the Staging Bungalow Funds and the Bullock Train.[2]

Till 1857 AD for erection of Post Office Buildings, the Director General had to apply to the local government or administration to whose jurisdiction the place belonged, in order that the work might be estimated for, and sanctioned and submitted for sanction under the prescribed rules. Since 1857 AD the Director General was empowered under the Budget rules to sanction works of which the cost did not exceed 2000 rupees and these as well as larger works approved by the Director General came to be incorporated in the appropriate place in the budget of the territory to which they appertained.[3]

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[1] Home (Public) Proceedings 23 of 20 Oct. 1854, p.1.

[2] Home (public) letters to Court 1 of 27 Jan. 1857, p.2.

[3] ibid, p.2.

The Director General exercised the powers to sanction, with the exception of certain appointments, re-distribution or alteration of fixed establishment involving net increase in the cost, in anticipation of the sanction of the Government. As regards the purely temporary and experimental establishments, the Director General was empowered to sanction them subject to the budget provision, for a period not exceeding 6 months or in respect of monsoon establishments, for the monsoon season. In 1865 AD he was empowered to sanction the establishment of temporary and experimental post offices up to a period of one year.[4]

The Director General's establishment increased to 9 clerks, one daftry and two peons by 1867 AD. In 1878 AD, he was empowered for next 5 years to sanction additions to and modifications in the establishments under his control except in the case of gazetted appointments and appointments of those whose pay exceeded 100 rupees a month.[5] This was subject to an annual expenditure of 50,000 rupees in the case of purely temporary and experimental establishments up to one and a half lakhs of rupees on petty increases and revision of fixed establishments.[6]

With the setting up of 'Branch Offices', the transfer of management of the District Post to the Imperial Post and ratification of postal conventions and amalgamation of the Princely States Postal Organisations, the number of post offices and the length of mail lines increased. The undertaking of new branches of business led to increase in the traffic. All this necessitated entering into frequent correspondence with the Government of India, Foreign Postal Departments, the political officers and the Durbars of feudatory states besides the work connected with supervision and control of the post office. By 1892 AD the Director General of Post Offices came to be assisted by the staff at his headquarters consisting of 66 clerks including nine superintendents.[7]

The growth of postal business and increase in the number of post office servants materially added to the general work of the Postal Directorate. In 1904 AD, the office establishment of the Director General consisted of 104 clerks and comprised of 8 sections.[8]

The fourth Assistant Director General was added to the staff of the Directorate in 1905 AD.[9] As a natural consequence of the complete take over of the District Post by 1906 AD the absorption of post of 637 out of 652 native states and the amalgamation of the Post and Telegraphs Departments in 1914 AD there was considerable increase in the work of the office of the Director General of the Post and Telegraphs.[10] The powers of the Director General to meet annual expenditure on the normal growth of the Department was enhanced to six lakhs of rupees in 1917 AD.[11] Based on the recommendation of the Committee headed by Mr. J.R.T. Booth, I.C.S., the then Postmaster General, the system of work in the Director General's office was reformed in 1921-22 AD by placing each section under the direct control of the Assistant Director

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4. Fin. Expdr. A.138-139 of Oct. 1965, p1. and A.3/4 of Feb. 1866, p.1.
5. Com. and Ind., Post Office, A.14 of April 1867, p.1.
6. Fin. Expdr. Post Office. 282 of Aug., 1878, p.1. 7. Fin. & Com. 325-231 of Oct., 1892, p.404.
8. Fin. & Com. Salaries, B-313-314 of March 1912, p.1.
9. Com. & Ind., Post Office A.7 & 8 of Sept. 1905, p.1.
10. ARPO 1913-14, p.11. and Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Committee, 1924-25, pp.62-63.
11. Ind. & Lab., PTE, F.No.27 PTE of 1928, S.Nos. 38-43, p.10.

General or an equivalent officer. The method of record keeping was also changed and simplified.[12]

In 1924-25 AD the Directorate of the Posts and Telegraphs Department comprised four distinct branches, namely the Postal, Telegraph Traffic, Engineering and Wireless. The majority of the staff were stationed at Calcutta, whence it was intended that they should be transferred to Delhi when the new secretariat building was ready for occupation while the rest were attached to the headquarters of the Government of India with which they moved between Delhi and Simla.[13] The scheme of control was as indicated in Chart 6.

By 1924-25 AD the Department was authorised to make its own arrangements for the maintenance and repairs of the Post and Telegraphs buildings. The headquarters administration of the building branch was placed in charge of the Chief Engineer instead of one of the Deputy Directors General.[14] The limit of the Director General Posts and Telegraphs to sanction minor works of the Posts and Telegraphs buildings was raised from 10,000 rupees to 20,000 rupees in 1926 AD and the power to sanction construction etc. of buildings was raised to 20,000 rupees in 1927 AD.[15]

Instead of placing a fixed amount at the disposal of Director General for the normal growth and expansion of the Department, a provision was made in the budget estimates of the Posts and Telegraphs Department from 1928 AD. The provision for each year was, however, to be referred to the standing Finance Committee before the budget estimates were submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly.[16]

In 1931 AD the status of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate was raised from that of subordinate office to that of an attached office.[17] There was vast development of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, with resultant increase in the work and responsibility of the Director General. The post of Deputy Director General (Establishment) was, therefore, created in 1943 AD to take care of Establishment and Staff sections.[18]

Director General, the chief Engineer and the Senior Deputy Director General constituted members of the Posts and Telegraphs Board. Most of the important decisions in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate, were taken, by the said three senior most officers of the Directorate in consultation with the Financial Adviser (Communications). The decisions of the Posts and Telegraphs Board had the force of the decision of the Governor General in council.[19] In 1946 AD, there were 17 sections in the Posts and Telegraph Directorate with a staff of 172 clerks.[20]

In 1946 AD, the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs was empowered to sanction write off of losses of revenue and cash up to 5000 rupees in each case.[21]

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[12] Public Works Department, P&TE, A. Nos.7-8 of October 1921, p.3 and ARPO 1921-22,p.4.

[13] Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Committee, 1924-25, pp.62-63.

[14] Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Committee, 1924-25, pp.62-63.

[15] Industry and Labour F.No.27 PTE of 1926, S.No.18, pp.1-3.

[16] Industry and Labour, PTE, F.No.27 PTE of 1928, S.No.38-43, p.11.

[17] Report of the Re-organisation of the office of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, 1946, p.5.

[18] Ibid. [19] Prasada, K. Report of the Re-organisation of the office of Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, 1946, p.5. [20] Ibid. [21] Ibid, p.57.

In order to ensure proper and speedy investigation of public complaints in 1947-48 AD, a Central Complaints Organisation was set up in the office of the Director General Posts and Telegraphs, New Delhi. The complaints sections existing in the offices of the postal circles and gazetted postmasters were strengthened.[22] In the Director General's office, the officer in charge of Complaints Organisation was changed from Deputy Director General (Complaints) to Deputy Director General (Inspection). He was given the duty of carrying out inspection in areas or offices where the disposal of public complaints was suspected to be slack or of studying the working of some particular features of the Departments.[23]

The office of the Director General Posts and Telegraphs continued to be an "attached office" and it shouldered the burden of the Secretariat.[24] During 1954 AD the Directorate functioned as the Posts and Telegraphs wing of the Ministry of Communications. The Government exercised its administrative and financial powers only on the advice of the Director General, whose status was that of Additional Secretary to the Government. The Posts and Telegraphs Board enjoyed full powers of Government in regard to various administrative and financial matters of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The Director General was the ex-officio Chairman of the Board. He had full powers of appointment in respect of Class III and Class IV officials of the Directorate and Class II officers in subordinate formations. His powers in regard to creation of posts extended to Class II posts of not more than 6 months duration in subordinate offices and class IV posts in the Directorate. The powers to grant leave and to order postings and transfers of Class I Junior and Senior Time scale officers were also exercised by him.[25]

In 1954 AD the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate comprised of 656 officials inclusive of the Director General, four Deputy Directors General, six Directors and seven Assistant Directors General. Out of 32 Sections in the Directorate, 10 exclusively dealt with the work connected with the postal wing and were under the charge of the Senior Deputy Direcotr General. The Deputy Director General (Staff and Establishment) took care of the work of sections dealing with both the Posts and Telegraphs Wings. The Director in charge of the Complaints Organisation directly operated under the Director General Posts and Telegraphs. The combined rates section of the Postal and Telegraphs wing was under the Deputy Director General (Telegraphs) and the section dealing with construction of Posts and Telegraphs buildings etc. was under the Deputy Director General (T.P.) under the Chief Engineer directly, being responsible to the Director General Posts and Telegraphs.[26]

Work Study Section

A Work study unit comprising of 3 Assistant Directors General exclusively for it and the Assistant Director General (Office and maintenance) also particularly, assisted by technical assistants and other subordinate staff was set up in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate to work under the Deputy Director General (Inspections). Its object is to undertake detailed studies of work done in various branches of the post offices. Railway Mail Service and administrative offices, etc; with a view to evolving reasonable standard for all items of work and to carry out work study and method study on all questions for the simplification of methods and procedures, elimination of wastage and enhancing the efficiency. The subjects for study,analysis and examination by the work study unit are decided by the Posts and Telegraphs Board.[27]

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[22] ARPO 1948-49, p.4. [23] ARPO 1949-50, p.5. [24] Report on the office of the Director General P&T 1954-56, p.1. [25] Report on the office of the Director General P&T, 1954-56, p.4. [26] Ibid, pp.6-8. [27] ARPO 1967-68, p.12.

Postal Research and Development Organisation

Research and Development Organisation for postal services started functioning in 1983-84 AD.[28] With a view to meeting the needs of the customers and raising the quality of service, a marketing organisation was set up at the headquarters in 1989-90 AD.[29] On 31st December 1984 AD, the Department of Posts was created after the bifurcation of the erst-while Posts and Telegraphs Department. The management of the Department vests in the Postal Services Board which has a Chairman and three members. The Secretary, Department of Posts is the Chairman of the Board. He is also the Director General Posts. The Members hold the portfolios of Operations, Development and Personnel. They are ex-officio additional secretaries to the Government of India. In addition, there is a financial advisor. The Board is assisted by a secretary who is also a Senior Deputy Director General (Quality Management). The Board directs and supervises the management of the postal services in the country.[30] The scheme of control is as indicated in Chart No.8).

The office of the Director General, which comprised of four writers and two peons in 1854 AD after a steady march across the fourteen decades was transformed to contain about 750 officials in 1994 AD which is an indication of the growth of the work connected with the administrative and technical supervision in the Department. In the administrative set up of the Postal Department, the Director General was represented at circle level by a Postmaster General for the maintenance of the postal services.

Postmasters General

The duties of Postmaster General and Presidency Postmaster were combined till 1854 AD. The office of the Postmaster General was separated from that of Presidency Postmaster. While the Postmaster General continued to function as provincial head of postal system,the Presidency Postmaster was responsible for the postal communication in the concerned cities.[31] With the formation of separate circle from 1st May, 1855 AD, the Postmasters General were appointed for the direct administration of the service in different Presidencies.[32] The Imperial post offices and mail lines situated beyond the limits of the Presidency towns and formerly subordinate to and under the control of local administration were grouped into four convenient circles namely Bengal, Madras, Bombay and North Western provinces.[33]

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28. ARPO 1983-84, p.2. 29. ARPO 1989-90, p.27. 30. ARPO 19841-85, p.14. ARPO 1993-94, p.31.

31. Roy, Bimal Prasad,"A few facts about GPO Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD) p.47.

32 ARPO 1855-56, p.2 (Home (Public) letters to the court, 1855, p.253. Geoffry Clarke, The Post Office of India and its story, pp..14,15. A postmaster General was appointed in the Bengal Presidency wef 31st March 1774 AD The Postmasters of Presidency towns exercised the functions of a Postmaster General in their own provinces up to 1785 AD. In 1786 AD, Mr.Archibald Campbell was made Postmaster, Madras.

33. Kaye, John William, The Administration of East India Company, p.253. The "North Western Province" stretched from Gorakhpur on the South-East, to Hissar, on the North-East, a cross line of 700 miles, for the most part along the valleys of the rivers Ganges and Jammu. The territory was divided into thirty-two districts, which were classed in six divisions.

The Postmasters General of Bengal and North Western provinces were relieved from dependence on the local governments and placed under the immediate control of the Director General of Post Offices in 1854 AD. The Postmasters General of Madras and Bombay were brought under his control in 1855 AD.[34]

Mr. Bartle Frere, Commissioner of Sind, the then newest and least developed province had printed his own postage stamps and devised without sanction a means of forwarding stamped letter also developed Roads, Railways, Post offices and Travellers' bungalows in Sind province. Above all these, he was successful in convincing the secretary of State that Karachi and not Calcutta was the natural port for the Punjab. His efforts later resulted in the bifurcation of North Eastern circle and creation of one more circle known as Punjab and Sind circle in 1860 AD. The province British Burma under a Chief Commissioner comprising of Arakan, Pegu and Tenasserim was separated from Bengal in 1861 AD.[35]

The North Western Circle was bifurcated and Punjab and Sind Circle came into existence in 1860 AD and Burma was separated from Bengal in 1861 AD and placed in charge of a Chief Inspector vested with the powers of a Postmaster General.[36]

Taking over of the management of District Post was started in 1864 AD. This process required the Postmaster General undertaking to relieve district officers of the control of establishment and acting quoad his new office as manager of the District Post was concerned, under the orders of the local government.

As the operation of the Department extended, in order to secure the interest and co-operation of the local administrations by presence at their headquarters representatives of the postal department namely the Chief Inspectors (later came to be known as Deputy Postmasters General) were appointed to minor charges of the circles in the provinces and political agencies. This enabled the heads of circles to exercise effective supervision over large areas devoid of locomotion.

The Central Provinces, which was the scene of much commercial activity was formed into a separate circle in 1866 AD. Separate circles were created in Sind in 1869 AD, Oudh in 1871 AD, Rajputana in 1872 AD, Assam in 1874 AD and Central India in 1879 AD.[37]

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34. Ibid and Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.84. The following post offices and lines of roads connected with them were transferred to Bombay circle in 1854 AD:
(a) From Bengal, the Nagpur and Kamptee Post Offices.
(b) From North Western Provinces, the Indore, Neemuch, Erinphera and Kotah Post Offices with their subordinate offices.
(c) From Madras, Jawinah Post Office.
(d) The Post Offices in Sindh under the control of the local commissioner were placed under the Postmaster General, Bombay.

35. Woondruff, Philip. The man who ruled India, the guardians p.30. The Sind Frontier in the southern end of the chain of mountains and desert that made north west Frontiers.

36. ARPO 1860-61, p.40. Woodruff, Philip. The Men who ruled India, The guardian, p.120.

37. (i) ARPO 1866-67,p.1. Commerce and Industry, A.7/10 of February 1866, p.1 of No.10 and ARPO 1869-70, p.5. To give effective control to the outlying portions of Bombay, Madras, Bengal and North Western provinces Central provinces circle was created. The Postal arrangements of Berars were transferred from the postal jurisdiction of Bombay to the Central Provinces in 1870 AD for administrative convenience.

The Postmaster General was assisted by the Inspecting Postmasters in charge of several divisions under their control in looking after the post Offices and road establishment in their jurisdictions.[38]

With the increase in the volume of mails conveyed between Calcutta and Bombay and the increase in the correspondence of commercial activity, certain amount of assistance was needed to the Postmaster General. The success of the addition of new kinds of business and thereby the change brought about in the work procedure depended on the guidance the Postmasters General could impart and the control they could effectively exercise.

Superintendents of Post Offices were provided at the headquarters of each of the main circles namely Bengal, Madras, Bombay, the North Western Provinces and the Punjab to be available for deputation on special duty to any part of the respective province.[39]

The Postmasters General were empowered in 1904 AD to sanction employment of experimental establishments up to a period of six months. This was a departure from the usual practice. No other subordinate officer of the other Imperial Department was till then delegated with such powers.[40]

As fresh railway lines were opened communication with the principal post offices became comparatively an easy matter.[41] Although there was considerable development of postal business, change in the territorial jurisdiction, closure of some minor circles was resorted to in the interest of both economy and administrative control.[42]

(ii) ARPO 1869-70, p.4. The Postal jurisdiction of Sindh was separated from that of Punjab in 1869 AD. The Postal arrangements in Turkish Arabia including the offices on the line between Karachi and Baghdad were added to the jurisdiction of the Chief Inspector of Sind as the postal service in Turkish Arabia could not be conveniently attended to by the Postmaster General of Bombay.

(iii) ARPO 1871-72, p.5. and Finance, Expenditure, A,1-4 of November 1870, p.1. Oudh was separated from the postal jurisdiction of the North Western Provinces in 1871 AD.

(iv) ARPO 1871-72, p.6 and ARPO 1872-73, p.5. Also see Finance (Expenditure). A 1-4 of November 1870, p.1. Oudh was separated from the postal jurisdiction of the North Western Provinces in 1871 AD.

(v) ARPO 1871-72, p.6 and ARPO 1872-73, p.5 also see Finance, Expdr., A.9/11 of March 1872, p.129. The area of Rajputana states comprised postal divisions partly under Bombay and partly under the North Western Provinces. The new circle was augmented in 1872 AD by transfer thereto from the North Western Provinces of the districts of Jaipur, Shekhawutte, Bharatpur and Alwar.

(vi) ARPO 1873-74, p.3. ARPO 1877-78, p.5. Financial Expdr. Post Office, A.35/40 of Jan. 1878, p.1. and A.368-374 of Sept. 1878, p.328-330 and ARPO 1878-79, p.3. While the province of Assam and the adjoining states of Coach Bihar with the districts of Sylhet and Cacher constituted into Assam circle in 1874 A.D, the province of Bihar and separate circles in 1878 AD to give effective supervision to the extensive remote tracts of Bengal.

(vii) ARPO 1879-80, p.4. The area comprising of no less than 14 native states were controlled by the Governor General's agent and were on the out-skirts of North Western Provinces circle and, therefore, were formed into a separate circle in 1879 AD

[38] ARPO 1855-56, p.29. [39] ibid. [40] Finance & Commerce, B.822/3 of July 1904, p.1.

[41] Commerce and Industry, Post Office Pro. 3 of January 1907 and File No.232 of 1906, p.27. In 1866 AD, there were 3563 miles of railways open in India. Even in 1879 AD there were only 8494 miles while in 1905 AD the open mileage went up to 28, 295 miles.

[42] ARPO 1893-94, p.1. Finance and Commerce, Salaries, A.780-790 of November 1894, p.635. ARPO 1905-06, p.2 and Commerce and Industry, Post Office, Pro.No.3 (F.No.232 of 1906) of 1907, p.1 and p.27. The administration of the minor circles was found to be on far lower lines than in the circles controlled by the Postmaster General, while the unwillingness of the Deputy Postmasters General to undertake responsibility rendered the control of the minor circles by the Director General comparatively far more difficult and troublesome than that of major circles.

A beginning was made in 1893 AD to get rid of minor circles and in that Year Oudh was amalgamated with the North Western Provinces circle, Central India circle was abolished in 1894 AD like wise that of Bihar in 1905 AD, while Burma was made a major circle and the status of the postal officer in charge of the province was raised to that of Postmaster General and the new appointment was given to Khan Bahadur C.J. Lal Kaka in 1905 AD.[43] This was followed by the abolition of Sind and Baluchistan circle and amalgamation of Eastern Bengal and Assam in 1907 AD. The last remaining minor circles viz., Central Provinces and Rajputana were abolished in 1909 AD and in their place the Central circle was created.[44]

While the administration of a Postmaster General was with advantage over a large area, the growth of postal traffic made it impossible for him to control the details of administration.Some help had been given to the Postmaster General in the shape of postal superintendents attached to their offices and called personal assistants. In 1907 AD the Postmasters General of Punjab and Bengal were provided with the assistance of the Deputy Postmasters General attached to their offices.[45]

The in charge of the frontier travelling post office introduced in 1870 AD with headquarters at Allahabad was designated as Superintendent. In 1877 AD, the designation of this officer was altered to Chief Superintendent, Travelling Post Office and in 1880 AD, to Inspector General, Railway Mail Service. The Inspector General worked as an Assistant Director General in the Directorate until 1890 AD. But in that year he was placed in a much more independent position as an administrative officer. Owing to the large increase for one man to exercise an efficient control over it, in 1905 AD, a Deputy Inspector General was appointed. But even with his assistants the work was too heavy, and in 1907 AD, on abolition of the 3 minor circles viz., East Bengal, Assam and Sind and Baluchistan, the two first named were amalgamated to form the major circle of Eastern Bengal and Assam, while in the case of the third, the province of Sind was attached to Bombay and Baluchistan to the Punjab and North Western Frontier Circle.[46]

In 1907 AD. the Railway Mail Service Circle in the country supervised by the" Inspector General of Railway Mail Service" working as Assistant Director General at the Directorate was divided into four circles namely the Eastern, Northern, Western and Southern with headquarters at Calcutta, Ambala, Poona and Bangalore of a controlling officer styled as" Inspector General of Sorting" for bringing about improvements in sorting arrangements and in the administration of the Railway Mail Service.[47] In 1918 AD, their number was reduced to three by the abolition of the Southern Circle, and their designation was altered to Deputy Postmaster General, Railway Mail Service.[48]

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[43] Ibid. ARPO 1904-05, p.1.

[44] ARPO 1909-10, p.2 and Commerce and Industry, Post Office, Pro.21 of Feb. 1908 (F.No.329 of 1907). p.1 ARPO 1907-08, p.1. On abolition of the 3 minor circles viz, East Bengal, Assam and Sind and Baluchistan, the two first named were amalgamated to form the major circles of Eastern Bengal and Assam, while in the case of the third, the province of Sind was attached to Bombay and Baluchistan to the Punjab and North Western Frontier circle.

[45] Commerce and Industry, Post Office, Pro.No.3 File No.232 of January 1907, p.33.

[46] Geoffry Clarke, The Post Office of India, p.59.

[47] Commerce and Industry, Post Office, Pro. No.10, F.No.300 of Feb. 1907, p.141 and ARPO 1907-08, p.1

[48] ARPO 1917-18, p.2.

By 1914 AD the two postal circles of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam were replaced by two new circles called Bengal and Assam and Bihar and Orissa to co-terminate with the boundaries of those provinces.[49]

In 1922 AD the Sind and Baluchistan postal and telegraph circle was created in charge of a Deputy Postmaster General with headquarters at Karachi.[50] In 1923 AD, certain Indian post offices situated in the Persian territory and Persian Gulf under the control of the said circle were closed.[51]

The Committee headed by Mr. T. Ryan appointed by the Government of India to investigate the possible measures of economy in the Department without loss of efficiency by internal arrangements of methods of working and redistribution of duties recommended among other measures suggested redistribution and the merger of the Railway Mail Service circles in to those of certain Postmasters General of certain selected circles. The merger of Railway Mail Service circles commenced in 1925 AD, and they were merged with the postal circles and the control of the Railway Mail Service was transferred to the control of the Postmasters General of certain selected postal circles and finally the offices of Deputy Postmasters General, Railway Mail Service, Eastern and Northern circles were abolished with effect from 1st January and lst April 1929 AD respectively, and the work was transferred to the control of the postmaster general concerned.[52]

Again with a view to improving efficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs services, circles were carved out to co-terminate with the boundaries of smaller provinces. In 1946 AD, the Bengal and Assam circle was split into two independent circles namely Bengal and Assam with headquarters at Calcutta and Shillong respectively.[53] In 1947 AD, the Bihar and Orissa circle was bifurcated into two independent circles namely Bihar and Orissa which co-terminated with the boundaries of bifurcated provinces. In the same year Delhi circle also came into existence.[54]

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[49] ARPO 1914-15, p.1. The Headquarters of the Postmaster General Bengal and Assam are located at Calcutta and those of one is Deputy Postmasters General at Shillong, the Headquarters of the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa was temporarily placed at Gulzaribagh.

[50] ARPO 1922-23, p.2. The new circle with headquarters at Karachi was also to control the offices in the Persian Gulf.

[51] ARPO 1922-23 p.3 and ARPO 1923-24, p.4. In consequence of the changes in 1920 AD by the Madrid Congress in the list of places and offices which were considered as belonging to the Universal Postal Union, a conference of delegates of the Postal Administration of British India, Iraq and Persia was held at Bushire in the beginning of Dec. 1922 AD and the Indian Post Offices situated in Persian territory on the Persian Gulf namely at Bunder Abbas Bushire, Chahbar, Henjam and Linga were closed in April 1923 AD.

[52] ARPO 1924-25, p.39 Report of the Committee, 1924-25, pp.19,25. Posts and Telegraphs Directorate No.PE 6/69/49 of 1949, p.3. ARPO 1929-30, p.3. Commerce and Industry, PTE A.Nos. 3 to 5 of Jan. 1918, p.5. and ARPO 1917-18, p.2 and ARPO 1914-15, p.1. The headquarters of the Postmasters General, Bengal and Assam were located in Calcutta and those of one of his Deputy Postmasters General at Shillong, the headquarters of the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa provisionally placed at Gulzaribagh, was shifted to Puri in 1946 AD. The R.M.S. Southern Circle with headquarters at Bangalore was abolished in 1918 AD on the ground that it did not have sufficient work to justify its existence as a separate administrative unit.

[53] Rajadhyaksha, G.S., Adjudication, pp.15-17.

[54] ARPO 1946-47, p.6 Prasada, K. Report on the question of Regional decentralisation of Posts and Telegraphs circles, pp.7,12,28,29.

On partition of the country, the territories of Indian dominion were divided into 10 circles namely Bengal, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Bombay, Central, Madras, United Provinces, Delhi and East Punjab circles. [55]

In 1949-50 AD, the Hyderabad Deccan circle was created and United Provinces circle was renamed as Uttar Pradesh circle.[56] To ensure closer supervision over somewhat backward areas, separate independent circles called Andhra and Rajputana were created in 1953 AD. Each of these circles were placed under the administrative control of a Director, Posts and Telegraphs.[57]

The clerks working in circle offices and those working in the post offices of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were of the same cadre till 1931 AD, when two separate grades were prescribed for clerks in circle offices and for clerks in other offices.

During the year l948-49 AD, a re-organisation of work in circle offices and tightening of control and supervision in the Presidency towns was carried out. The posts of Deputy Postmasters General were replaced by Directors of Postal Services. The over-all control of the postal arrangements in the three Presidency towns namely Bombay, Calcutta and Madras was made the responsibility of Directors of Postal Services attached to circle offices, the Presidency Postmasters were relieved of all responsibility in connection with the working of town sub offices. A separate circle was formed for the Mysore State and Telangana area of the Hyderabad circle and the Andhra circle were integrated into a single circle for the whole of Andhra State in 1960 AD. A separate circle for Jammu and Kashmir state was formed in 1966 AD. The Kerala circle which was constituted into a separate unit on 1st July 1961 A.D, was upgraded to the status of a major circle and placed under the charge of a Postmaster General with effect from lst January 1965 AD.[58] The Central circle and Bombay circle were renamed as Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra circles in 1965-66 AD, Madras as Tamilnadu in 1968-69 AD, and Assam and Mysore as Northern and Karnataka circles respectively in 1971-72 AD.

The clerical cadre was brought at par with other administrative offices in 1953 AD when the upper and lower division posts were created in circle offices.[59]

In 1950 AD the Postmasters General were empowered to create and abolish permanent posts in class III and class IV in the existing cadres subject to certain restrictions.[60] In 1951 AD, they were empowered to sanction the creation and retention of temporary posts for any specified period under certain conditions and restrictions.[61] The financial powers of the Postmasters General with regard to the grant of various allowances, advances, contingent grants, expenditure for the carriages of mails and refunds etc. and their administrative powers were strengthened from time to time.[62] Consequent on setting up of the administrative vigilance division in the Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 1955 AD, Vigilance officers were appointed in 7 major circles in 1961 AD. Besides their normal duties of investigation into general complaints against departmental officials, cases of corruption and bribery and watching the disposal of vigilance cases in the subordinate offices was assigned to them.[63]

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[55] ARPO 1949-50, p.65. [56] ibid. [57] Posts and Telegraphs Directorate, No.PE 36-2/53/PT of 1953, p.7.

[58] ARPO 1948-49, p.2. ARPO 1959-60, p.10, ARPO 1964-65, p.3 and ARPO 1966-67, p.11.

[59] Report of the Establishment Standards Committee, 1955, p.7.

[60] M.F.(C) Endst., No.G.36/22/49 dated the 27th June 1950, cited in the Schedule of Financial Powers of Officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1953, p.22.

[61] ibid, p.23. [62] ibid.

In November 1986 AD, 6 Additional Postmasters general namely Additional Postmaster General Kanpur, Siliguri, Vijayawada, Nagpur, Madurai and Guwahati were ordered to be located outside the circle headquarters.[64]

In order to bring the higher level of administration nearer to the field, reorganisation of the circle structure was carried out in 1989 AD, under the new scheme, the 19 postal circles are continued; but 40 regions came to be headed by a postmaster general level or even higher level officer. [65] The in charge of the circle was, however, redesignated as the 'Chief Postmaster General.

In addition to the circles there are Regional Mail Planning units at Madras,Calcutta, Delhi and Bombay under the Controllers of the rank of Postmaster General. The controllers exclusively look after the planning and control of mail operations. The designation of Controller (Mail, Planning and Operation) at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are changed as Postmaster General (Mail Management) in July 1994 AD. Under the revised set up, he works under the administrative control of Chief Postmaster General. All the Mail Motor Service and Railway Mail Service units including Speed post located in the Metro city are placed under him. He exercises administrative, financial and disciplinary powers of Regional Postmaster General for units under his charge. Postmaster General (Mail Management) Bombay exercises his control over the Automatic Mail Processing Centre under his control. So far as the post of Controller (Mail Planning and Operation) Northern region, Delhi is concerned no change has been ordered.[66]

The Postmasters General were responsible for making efficient arrangements for the discharge of constantly increasing work of the Department and it was their duty to take care of the development of postal facilities to the public.

The heads of circles were assisted by the staff of administrative machinery comprising of the Superintendents of Post offices, Inspectors of Post offices and Mail overseers stationed at different places for supervision over the post office establishments.

Superintendents of Post Offices

In 1854 AD the post offices in the four postal circles of Bengal, Madras Bombay and North Western Provinces etc. were grouped into convenient postal divisions numbering forty for the purpose of inspection.[67] To each Division an Inspecting Postmaster was appointed who supervised postal arrangements connected with ordinary paid and unpaid letters and parcels and registered letters. He travelled constantly from post office to post office and exercised a vigilant supervision over the Deputy Postmasters and their offices and Road establishments. The Dak Bungalows were under the charge of the Inspecting Postmasters.[68]

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[63] ARPO 1960-61, p.13. [64] ARPO 1987-88, p.28. [65] ARPO 1988-89, p.26.

[66] ARPO 1993-94, p.61 and D.G. P.O.No:23-10/94 - PE.II dt.13.7.94. So far as Mail Motor Service and Railway Mail Service outside the Metro City are concerned these units continued under respective Regional Postmasters General. However, Postmaster General (Mail Management) exercises technical control on behalf of the head of the circle. In the revised set up Postmaster General, Metro Region do not look after the Railway Mail Service and Mail Motor Service units in the Metro city. [67] ARPO 1855-56, p.3. [68] Ibid, p.29.

With the formation of separate postal circles from 1st May, 1855 AD, one post of Inspecting Postmaster for each was also created. They were selected from the Postmasters possessing lot of experience and intelligence and placed at the services of the Postmaster General.

With the extension of postal operations the duties of the Inspecting Postmasters also increased. The Inspecting Postmaster had to visit every Post office at least once in each quarter for examining thoroughly its accounts as well as its general condition and working, pointing out and rectifying irregularities, instructing the postmasters as to their duties, and explaining what might not be understood by them. Besides the said duties, they had to enquire into the complaints regarding despatch and delivery of letters to communicate with the local authorities respecting the alteration or improvement of postal arrangements and to conduct investigation into reported losses or abstraction of contents of letters and packages.

In some cases, particularly where there were important mail cart lines, the supervision of road establishment formed the chief portion of an Inspecting Postmaster's regular duty. He was then usually designated as Superintendent of Mail carts, the post offices, situated on the particular line of which he was Superintendent, were placed under him.[69]

Additional Inspector's Divisions came to be created to see that the service was performed with care and punctuality and that the prescribed rules and orders were observed. The number of the Inspecting Postmasters and the Superintendents Mail Carts was 73 in 1867 AD.[70] For the control of the District Post and the number of small offices and branch offices in the interior of districts, the Inspecting Postmasters were assisted by the Sub-Inspectors.[71]

The introduction of new kinds of business and modification adopted in the system of working from time to time augmented the duties of Inspecting Postmasters who were thenceforth redesignated as the Superintendents of Post Offices.[72] The Superintendents were required to instruct the larger post offices and their subordinate inspectors in the changes necessitated. The Superintendents were also required to fix the working hours, number of deliveries and hours of delivery of the post offices in jurisdiction.[73]

The Superintendent's duties incidental to the investigation of all classes of loss, theft, fraud or the like and conducting of criminal prosecutions in post offices cases were onerous and responsible. The duty of verifying balances at post offices, which formerly devolved on the Examiners of Head Office Accounts were transferred to the Superintendents of the Postal Divisions in 1886-87 AD. They were also entrusted with the responsibility of processing the proposals for creation of new post offices and establishments.[74] The general development of the postal business and the increase in the number of post offices necessitated the strengthening of the supervisory staff and thirty new posts of Superintendents were created raising their total strength to 150 in 1903 AD.[75]

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69. Financial, Post Office, A.229-254 of October 1867, p.1. 70. Ibid, pp.1-2.
71. ARPO 1867-68, p.4. 72. Proc. of the S.C., P.S.C., 1887, p.6.
73. Post Office Manual Volume I, 1883 (1885 Edn.), p.73. 74. ARPO 1886-87, p.4.

The formal inspection of post offices was reduced from twice to once a year in 1920 AD to allow the Superintendents of Post offices move freely about their divisions. They had to spend not less than 85 days in a year on inspection. The Superintendents did not exercise control over the first class postmasters and their work, except in so far as verifying their office accounts twice a year.[76]

Consequent on the entrusting of the administration of the Railway Mail Service to the heads of postal circles, in 1929 AD, the Superintendents of Post Offices were also required to hold the charges of Railway Mail Service units. The Superintendents carried out annual inspection of head offices, important sub-offices and 10 percent of the branch offices in their jurisdiction. Second inspection of an office was undertaken if there were reasons to believe that it was not working satisfactorily and it used to be in the form of a surprise visit.[77]

From 1929 AD to 1950 AD the number of postal divisions was more or less constant at 90.[78] In 1951 AD, as a result of Federal Financial Integration, 10 postal divisions were taken over from the Ex-state postal systems and 42 more divisions were created by 1953-54 AD.

As a result of the acceptance of the recommendations of Mr. R.V. Marathe., the norms then adopted were that a postal division should consist of 30 head and sub offices, about 150 clerical staff and 100 inspection days for the Superintendent. The cadre of Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices in Higher Selection Grade was introduced in 1948 AD. The posts were attached to Postal divisions which were exceptionally heavy.[79]

The control on working of the town sub offices was the responsibility of the first class head post offices. In 1948-49 AD, control of these offices was transferred and placed under the charge of Senior Superintendents of Posts Offices a new service called the Indian Postal Service, class one cadre, who further were made responsible for mail arrangements, postal facilities, complaints and investigations relating to the head office itself.[80]

As at the close of the year 1953-54 AD there were 142 postal divisions out of which 114 divisions were in Class II, 8 divisions in Junior Class I and 20 divisions were in the Senior Scale. On the R.M.S. side there were 26 divisions out of which 9 were in the Junior Scale class I, 4 in the Senior Scale Class I and 13 in Class II.[81] As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 440 Postal Divisions and 68 Railway Mail Service Divisions in the country.

In ensuring proper functioning of the rural services, the Inspector was interposed between the Superintendent of post offices and the branch offices, but a superintendent was quite in a position to judge the working of the rural post offices, by his study of the inspection reports sent to him by the Inspectors. The inspection of branch offices and the sub and head offices with which the branch offices were in account was to be carried out by himself.

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75. ARPO 1903-04, p.2. 76. Industry and Labour, P&TE, F.No.48 PT. S.No.10 of June 1925, p.1. of Note. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.60. 77. Report of Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.60. 78. Communications, Post Office, PE 28-2/55 of 1955, p.27 of note.
79. Ibid, pp.27 & 35 of notes. There were 21 posts of Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices in 1952 AD.
80. ARPO 1948-49, p.2. 81. Communications, Post Office, PE 28-2/55 of 1955, p.32 of notes.

In ensuring the efficiency of the postal services to the general public, the Superintendent was assisted by the band of Inspectors in charge of sub-divisions under his control.

Inspectors of Posts Offices

The transfer of the control of District Post and the increase in the number of small and branch offices in the interior districts necessitated entertainment of Inspectors of Post Offices. They are ordinarily subordinates directly to the Superintendents of Post Offices. In 1867-68 AD, there were 41 such inspectors and with the gradual taking over of the management of the District Posts, their strength rose to 170 by 1874-75 AD.[82] .

Smaller sub offices, and branch post offices and allied mail lines were placed under their control. They also supervised the work of rural messengers. They discharged such duties as were from time to time entrusted by Superintendents of Post Offices.[83]

The Inspector is the key man on whom the planning for expansion and efficient working of the postal service in the interiors and remote areas much depended. Enormous quantity of work was gradually added to each Inspector, with the introduction of new classes of business and changes brought out in the system of working.

The Inspector of Post Offices is the appointing and disciplinary authority of certain cadres of the subordinate staff. The fixation of working hours of the branch offices in jurisdiction also formed part of his duties besides initiating proposals for expansion and extension of the postal network.[84] The Inspector is responsible for the proper working of all the post offices and mail lines under his immediate control. He is required to instruct all his subordinates. One of the important duties of an Inspector is to develop postal facilities in the interior of the districts. Whenever a robbery or an exceptional occurrence requiring immediate attention was reported, the Inspector had to proceed at once to the spot and make enquiry.[85] The Inspectors are required to instruct the smaller post offices and branch offices in the changes necessitated and are to be vigilant about the incidence of frauds. The Inspector was required to inspect all the offices placed in his jurisdiction.[86]

The discontinuation of second inspection system in 1920 AD gave rise to increased frauds by the post office officials. When it was re-introduced in 1925 AD there was improvement. The Inspector had to spend not less than 120 days in inspection of the offices spread over in the remote and interior areas of the country. These inspections besides toning up of the efficiency of the service reduced the incidence of frauds.

The increase in the number of rural post offices during the post-independence period and the expansion of postal services in the semi-rural and urban areas brought in an all-round increase in the work and supervisory responsibility of the Inspector. He was assisted by the Mail Overseers in supervision of the mail lines and smaller offices in jurisdiction.

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[82] ARPO 1867-68, p.4 and ARPO 1874-75, p.21. [83] Pro. of the S.C., PSC 1887, p.6.

[84] Post Office Manual, Vol.I (First Edn.), 1883, (reprint, 1885) p.73.

[85] Indian Post Office Manual, Vol.I, 1873, p.144-147. Report of the Postal Inquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.164.

[86] Ibid. [87] ARPO 1855-56, p.14. [88] Report of the Postal Inquiry Committee, 1855, p.2.

Mail Overseers

This is an old institution existed prior to 1854 AD, and is primarily intended for supervision over runners' lines.[87]

The supervision of branch post offices also came to be entrusted to this class of officials. They are required to check the cash and stamp balances of branch offices situated in the beat. The check of village delivery work in general and verification of money order payments is the very important function of an overseer. It was seldom that a fraud was detected by them. They are also required for conveyance of cash collected in the outlying offices.[88]

During the post-independence period, the number of Mail Overseers was also augmented with increase in the number of branch post offices. The Mail Overseer was the last officer in the chain of postal administrative machinery.

Operative Formations

The Operative formations in the Indian Postal Organisation comprise of the Post Offices, Railway Mail Service, and Dead Letter Offices. While the post office performed major portion of its main function namely collection, conveyance and delivery of mails, the Railway Mail Services and the Returned letter offices extended assistance in proper conduction of these services.

Organisation of Post Offices

In 1854 AD the control and supervision of the post offices in the presidency towns was continued to be exercised by the presidency postmasters and the Imperial post offices and mail lines situated beyond the limits of the presidency town were placed under the administrative control of the Postmasters General.

Following the postal reforms of 1854 AD, the departmental postmasters replaced ex-officio postmasters who had little time to devote to post office work. The post offices were organised into head and sub offices with the object of simplification of account. There were 199 Head and 446 Sub offices besides 55 Receiving Houses in 1854-55 AD.[89] The Receiving houses were kept in charge of a clerk for acceptance of the registered letters and stamped and unpaid letters.[90] The next in category were sub offices which rendered daily accounts to their head offices.[91] The Deputy Postmasters were in charge of most of these offices.[92]

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89. ARPO 1855-56, p.2 & Post Office Guide,1855, p.2.
90. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.79.
91. Financial, Expenditure, A.384-399 of April 1868, p.3.
92. ARPO 1855-56, pp.2-3.
93. Financial Expenditure, A.384-399 of April 1968, p.3.
94. ARPO 1966-67, p.3.

The head offices at the head quarters of a district station drew and distributed through Superintendents, Overseers and others, the pay of the postal establishments in the jurisdiction and were known as "Disbursing Offices." All the post offices were classified with reference to the amount of correspondence passing through each and the establishment of clerks was fixed with reference to transit duties and night work, as well as, to the amount of correspondence and to the necessity for giving assistance to the postmasters of disbursing offices.[93]

"Branch Offices" were set up in 1866-67 AD. The correspondence posted in these offices passed through and included in the statistical accounts of its account office which could be a sub office or a head office according to the administrative orders.[94] Of the 16,033 post offices open in 1904-05 AD, three fourths were "branch offices". About 10,000 of these were in charge of extraneous agents such as school masters, station masters, shopkeepers, land lords and cultivators who performed postal duties in return for a small remuneration.[95]

The complete takeover of the District Posts in 1906 AD placed at command of the post office a vast area of operation. In 1907 AD, generally a head post office was established for each revenue district. The more important subordinate offices were designated "sub offices" and were established only in towns while for villages there were a small class of branch offices as already stated.[96]

From 1920 AD onwards the important post offices were classified into those of sub offices with five clerks or more in charge of Sub Postmasters (Lower selection grade), sub-offices with 25 time scale clerks or more and head offices with more than 15 clerks were placed in charge of Sub Postmasters and Postmasters in higher selection grade and head offices with 30 time scale clerks inclusive of sorting postmen were held by gazetted postmasters.[97]

During the retrenchment campaign i.e., in 1931 AD the sub-offices with less than five hours work were converted into extra departmental sub offices.[98] Since then the extra departmental system of manning the post offices was extended to the urban areas also. The post offices, in 1934-35 AD, constituting of three categories namely head offices, sub-offices and branch offices comprised of 253,5657 and 17,719 in number respectively of which 4,937 functioned in the urban areas and 18,692 in rural areas. All the post offices did not perform work connected with the delivery of mails and other functions. Of these 23,629 post offices in 1934-35 AD 1361 were no-delivery offices and 69 comprised of no-money order offices, 10,850 offices performed savings bank business and 4,279 were the combined post offices doing telegraph work also.[99]

In 1948-49 AD, Director Postal Services attached to circle office was made responsible for the over all control of the postal arrangements in the Presidency town. The control of the town sub offices located in the stations having first class head offices were transferred to the then newly created Senior Superintendent of Post Offices.[100]

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95. Imperial Gazetteer Vol.III. 1907, p.429 and ARPO 1904-05, p.24. 96. ARPO 1906-07, pp.1,47.
97. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee. 1934-35, p.112.
98. Ibid, pp.72,73,74. 99. Ibid, p.69. 100. ARPO 1948-49, p.2.

At the close of 1953-54 AD there were 11,953 temporary post offices and 33,954 permanent post offices. The latter comprised of 240 head offices, 6,346 sub offices and 27,368 branch offices. Of the total Post offices, 35 were no money order offices, 2,224 were no delivery offices and 21,297 were no savings bank offices. The number of post offices in urban and rural areas were 6,179 and 39,728 respectively.[101] After the progressive increase in the number of post offices opened during about a period of fourteen decades ie., as on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 1,50.346 post offices of which 834 were head offices, 24,669 were sub offices and 1,24,843 were extra departmental offices. The last figure included 2,853 extra departmental sub offices in existence on the said date. There were 10,232 no-delivery post offices. The number of post offices in urban and rural areas were 16,224 and 1,34,122 respectively.

The first sorting office was opened at Benaras post office in 1853 AD for sorting the letters passing between Bengal and North Western Provinces. [102] The development of commercial correspondence impelled opening of more number of sorting offices on the main lines of communication.[103]

Railway Mail Service

The commencement of uninterrupted Railway communication on the long line between Bengal and North Western Provinces and the impossibility of having the mail sorted, as before, at an intermediate office, necessitated the introduction of Railway sorting on a portion of the line namely, between Allahabad and Kanpur. The first step towards introduction of Railway sorting in India was taken in 1865 AD when the Travelling post office was opened between Calcutta and Allahabad.[104]

Each set of clerks later known as sorters functioning in the Travelling post office had to maintain their own register. This duty, which essentially was stationary work, was performed during intervals of rest by the travelling establishment. The records having to be written up once in three days were necessarily constantly in arrears and delay occurred in receipting and returning the documents and in replying to references. Record Offices were, therefore, established at convenient localities, whose duties were the performance of all purely office work connected with the Travelling post office. This system advocated and tried first by Mr.Bedford an Inspector of Bombay succeeded so well as an experiment.[105] By 1873 AD this system was extended to every part of India where large travelling post office existed.[106]

The Sorting of letters and newspapers was performed on almost all Railway lines in travelling offices. For parcels it was difficult to make similar provision, hence, it led to selecting of convenient places on the main lines where parcels could be stopped in transit for sorting in 1878-79 AD.[107]

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101. ARPO 1953-54, pp.26,79. 8658 Post offices received telegrams for transmission.

102. Home (Public) letters from Court, 1853, p.514. 103. ARPO 1861-62, pp.4,5.

104. Financial, Expdr. A.146 of October 1865, p.3. Henry, John, G. The history of the Early Postmarks of the British Isles, p.19. In 1837 AD, Mr. Fredrick Karstad, son of a post office surveyor, suggested the use of Travelling post offices in connection with the railway system, then so rapidly developing.

105. Sen, Ananda Gopal, The Indian Post Office, p. 106. ARPO 1872-73, p.4. 107. ARPO 1878-79, p.4.

108. ARPO 1886-87, p.4. 109. Pro. of the S.C. P.S.C. 1887, p.5.

110. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.200. At the close of 1953-54 AD there were 226 record offices, 301 sorting and transit offices and 417 sorting and transit sections.

With the object of checking the growing expenditure, the Railway Mail Service branch, was re-organised in 1886-87 AD. Sorting of letters in railway carriage was far more expensive than in a post office. Stationary offices were, therefore, established.[108] Direct mail bags between large post offices were introduced to reduce sorting work done in the Travelling post office. Similarly this system was extended for the smaller stations also. In 1887 AD, there were 65 stationary sorting offices and 160 travelling sorting sections.[109] As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 549 sorting offices and 443 Record offices in the country.

The Railway Mail Service work was controlled by the Superintendents who were on the same cadre as that of the Superintendents of Post Offices. The sorters under them who dealt with the sorting of mails during transport were on the cadre of clerks. The lower grade staff comprised of mail guards, porters and office peons. The work of the Railway Mail Service staff was supervised by the Inspectors.[110]

Returned Letter Offices

In 1854 AD, the Dead letter offices functioned at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Agra in North Western Provinces as a part of Postmaster General's Office to dispose of the unclaimed and refused articles of all classes of correspondence.[111] The unclaimed letters owing to the addressees being "not known," "not found," "gone away," "deceased" etc., received in the office of Postmaster General from the post offices in jurisdiction were opened and sent to the sender in "Dead letter" cover in cases wherein the address of the sender could be found. In the rest of the cases, they are to be preserved for one year and later destroyed as unclaimed. The Postmaster General was required to credit money found therein into the Treasury and all valuables were to be sold and sale proceeds were to be credited into the Treasury.[112]

In 1856-57 AD, about 23 lakhs of unclaimed letters were received in the Dead letter offices. A large number of unclaimed letters were received at the Dead letter offices during and the later few years of the post-revolt period. They were those either addressed to parties who died or were killed during the disturbances, as well as, pertaining to those addressees who had changed their residences. Many letters did not bear a proper direction or the names of the senders and addresses or were having addresses illegible. To bring about improvements in the functioning of the Dead letter offices a set of rules were prescribed in 1861-62 AD.[113]

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[111] ARPO 1856-57 & 1857-58, p.10. The origin of Returned Letter Office can be traced to the Act of 1837 AD which prescribed the treatment of undelivered letters lying at any post office for longer than three months.

[112] Post Office Act, 1854 AD (Act. XVII dt. 12th August 1854), Section XLIV & XLV. Post Office Act, 1837 AD (Act XVII of 1837). Under Section XXV, XXXI and XXVII, the unclaimed letter after lying for 3 months at any post office were to be sent to the General Post Office of the Presidency by all subordinate offices. The Postmaster General was required to publish a list of such unclaimed letters and packets at an interval not exceeding three months in the official gazette. The Postmaster General was authorised to open all letters and packets remaining unclaimed for 18 months and after expiry of 12 months to destroy such letters if remained unclaimed. The Postmaster General was to pay all valuable property found there in to the Government Treasury for the benefit of any person who may have a right thereto.

[113] For details of the prescribed rules see Appendix I of ARPO 1861-62, p.23. [114] ARPO 1861-62, p.v.

Initially the functions of the Dead letter offices were limited to the treatment of unclaimed and refused articles. With the growth and development of delivery of correspondence meant for different regions of the country, the duties of the Dead letter offices were also connected with deciphering addresses in other regional languages with an object to have the correspondence ie., the letter packets and parcels forwarded to the addressees, or returned to the senders. The correspondence so meant for delivery through the post offices in other Presidencies were sent to the Dead letter office concerned.[114]

Refused letters sent by the subordinate offices were opened by the Dead letter office branch of the Postmaster General's office and measures taken to realise the postage due on the unpaid and insufficiently paid refused letters by ensuring their delivery to the sender. The executive function of the postmaster in this respect was assigned to an officer designated as "Manager" of the Dead letter office before the enactment of the Post Office Act, 1866 AD.[115]

The letters that could not be delivered were ordered to be sent for disposal to the Dead letter offices of the postal circle in which they originated. Out of 16.80 lakhs of letters received in the Dead letter offices for disposal in 1864-65 AD, 1070 lakhs were deposited as dead in the Dead letter offices. The percentage of letters deposited as dead decreased to 63.69 percent in the said year.[116]

New Dead letter offices were opened at Lahore and Karachi in 1867 AD and 1870 AD respectively.[117]

The inveterate habit of the subordinate postmasters and Deputy Postmasters of getting rid of covers which they could not deliver by sending them off in various directions to other post offices without any sufficient grounds for re-direction, kept large quantities of undeliverable letters floating about from office to office until at last they reached the Dead letter office.[118]

The work of the Dead letter offices was surrounded with much difficulties. With an European population constantly on the move, and an area of operation comprising populations of so many different languages and writing in some thirty different scripts, the job of the Dead letter office became more difficult. Added to this the pernicious habit among the great bulk of native population of writing the most complicated addresses, including strings of names, titles, compliments, routes, residences, provinces, districts, villages etc., all compressed upon the diminutive space available on the outside of a minutely folded paper. This kind of situation made the work of the Dead letter offices more difficult.[119]

A new Dead letter office was opened at Nagpur in 1871-72 AD.[120] and at Lucknow in 1872-73 AD.[121] The efforts to improve the working of the Dead letter office led to the opening of three more offices by 1874-75 AD, at Allahabad, Mount Abu in Rajasthan and at Rangoon. The Dead letter office opened at Rangoon was for the disposal of covers in the Burmese character. Out of 25.62 lakhs of articles received in the Dead letter offices

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115. Mazumdar, M.L. The Imperial Post Offices of British India, pp.248.249. 116. ARPO 1861-62, p.viii and ARPO 1864-65 p.11. 117. ARPO 1861-62, p.6, ARPO 1863-64, p.5, 1867-68, p.9 and ARPO 1870-71, p.10. 118. ARPO 1871-72, p.7. 119. ARPO 1871-72, p.7. 120. Ibid.
121. ARPO 1872-73, p.5.

10.75 lakhs were returned to the senders and 9.22 lakhs were deposited as dead which represented 35.98 percent of the total received for disposal.[122]

The object lessons to be learnt from the work of the Dead letter offices are always the same. The Dead letter office is the borne of unaddressed envelope, the photograph that is insecurely packed and the newspaper that comes apart from its flimsy and ill-fastened wrapper. Every year thousands of letters and book packets reached various Dead letter offices with absolutely blank faces. Many of them were circular letters and advertisements which were issued in enormous quantities, some of them being those which were never looked at the time when the addresses were being written. The annals of each year contained strange instances of letters being addressed, in a moment of absence of mind, the writer's own name , and of business communications, and letters with valuable contents, posted to addresses that do not exist, or with no address at all. As regards photographs, which hold an important place in modern life, the simple precaution of writing the name and address of the sender on the back would prevent many tokens of affections or friendship being ultimately consigned to flames. Later with the improvement in the quality of wrappers used in closing newspapers, there was decrease in proportion of newspapers and periodicals to the total number of these articles received in the Bombay Dead letter office separated from their wrappers.[123]

The abolition of the minor circles and their amalgamation resulted in reduction in the number of Dead letters also. In 1914-15 AD, the number of Dead letter offices were reduced to seven.[124] The percentage of articles deposited as dead in the Dead letter offices decreased from 27.49 percent in 1884-85 AD to 22.27 percent in 1914-15 AD and to 7 percent in 1992 AD.[125]

The functions of the Dead letter offices were of two-fold. First it re-directed articles to the sender or addressee with insufficient address. Secondly it kept in deposit articles which could not be forwarded to the addressee or returned to the senders.[126]

In 1924 AD, 46 percent of the articles received in the Dead letter offices were disposed of by redirection to the addressees, 46 percent were returned to the senders. Out of these only 2.08 percent came back to the Dead letter offices as undelivered. The number of articles finally deposited as "dead" was 12.15 lakhs which represented 12.49 percent of the total articles received in the Dead letter office.[127] In the said year, in Bengal, Bombay and Madras alone on an average 104 articles were found posted every day with no address whatsoever and many of them contained money or valuables.[128]

The matters having improved in 1953-54 AD only 8.4 percent of the articles were deposited in the Dead letter offices as "Dead". All kinds of articles including cheques, hundies, stamps, currency notes and other valuable property of the aggregate nominal value of about 17 lakhs, including certain foreign currencies, were found amongst the articles opened by the Dead letter offices in 1953-54 AD. Most of these articles were either returned to the senders or delivered to the addressees.[129] The Dead Letter Offices were renamed as Returned letter Offices in 1958-59 AD. During the year 1991-92 AD, 31.2 millions of articles with insufficient or illegible address were received in the Returned letter Offices. Out of which 56 percent were sent to the addressees and 27 percent were returned to the senders. Seven percent, however, remained with the Returned letter Offices. [129 (a)]

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[122] ARPO 1874-75, p.18.
[123] ARPO 1900-01, pp.7.8.
[124] 1914-15, p.24 and Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.25. The Dead Letter offices at Calcutta attended to the work of Bengal and Assam and Bihar and Orissa circles while that at Lahore, the work of Punjab and North Western Provinces and Sind and Baluchistan circles. The seven Dead letter offices were situated at Bombay, Lucknow, Calcutta, Lahore, Madras, Nagpur and Rangoon.
[125] ARPO 1914-15, p.24.
[126] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.25.
[127] ARPO 1924-25, p.7.
[128] Ibid, p.7, ARPO 1953-54, p.35.
[129] ARPO 1953-54, p.35. 129 (a). Book of Information 1993, p.33 and Book of Information, 1993, p.33.

Public Complaints and Grievances

The complaints received from public were recorded and properly enquired into by the Postmasters General and the Divisional heads. In the initial years followed by the postal reforms of 1854 AD the complaints were more or less, connected with missing or missent letters, overcharge on covers and delay in delivery of these articles.[130]

The cases of ascertained dishonesty on the part of the employees under the Post Office Department in 1859-60 AD were 168 in number. In 79 of which legal convictions were obtained, while in 89 cases the persons at fault were punished departmentally.[131]

The rigid enforcement of Departmental rules required all the Postmasters to notice and report every irregularity, whether in his own, or in another division or in other presidency or administration to the Inspecting Postmasters of the Division. The immediate report of all irregularities and suspicious circumstances led to departmental investigation. It prevented attempts to frauds.[132]

The absence of a system for remittance of money to the mofussil areas had impelled the public to make use of the post office as a means of transmitting currency notes. This growing habit of the public placed in the way of the post office establishments a strong temptation to dishonesty. During 1867-68 AD, out of 126 cases in which punishments were inflicted both departmentally and through legal convictions a considerable proportion of the offences committed had reference to the abstraction of currency notes.[133] This led in 1869 AD to the adoption of system of compulsory registration in respect of covers containing coins or currency notes.[134]

In an attempt to encourage the members of the public to inform the authorities about the postal inconvenience caused to them, complaints against the post office certified as such under the full signature and address of the sender to any officer of the postal department were made not chargeable with any postage.[135]

The expansion of the Department, the multiplication of delivery agencies and other postal extensions in the interior districts was attended with an increase in the irregularities.

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130. ARPO 1859-60, p.9. 131. ARPO 1859-60, p.11. 132. ARPO 1862-63, p.10.
133. ARPO 1867-68, p.15. 134. ARPO 1868-69, p.5.
135. Financial, Separate Revenue, B. 11 of Sept. 1869, p.1.

Well founded complaints, when facts were given, exercised a valuable check on the working of the Department. Those who were responsible for seeing the work of the Department as efficient as possible recognised the valuable assistance derived from the complaints received from the members of the public. Every endeavour was made to utilise enquiries as an effectual means of fixing responsibility and preventing neglect of work.[136]

Besides the members of the public, the press also played an important role in bringing into light cases of nepotism, favouritism and lapses on the part of the Department.[137]

However the privilege of free transmission by post of complaints of the public against the Department was withdrawn in 1931-32 AD.[138]

With the spread of education and commercial advancement, the number of public complaints regarding delay in delivery of ordinary correspondence or neglect of a single clearance of a letter box increased.

The complaints were indicative of the root causes of in-efficiency, a proper analysis improved the tone of work in offices. To supervise the complaints work in circles, a separate complaints organisation was set up in the office of Director General Posts and Telegraphs, soon after the partition in 1947 AD.[139] The Central Organisation had three Regional Complaints Officers recruited from outside the cadre of postal officers for the three zones with headquarters at Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. The Central Complaints Organisation investigated public complaints relating to corruption, nepotism, favoritism and inefficiency and the tardiness of the normal machinery for setting public complaints.[140]

The dawn of independence, which brought general awakening in the public conscience of their rights and awareness of the implications of the democratic constitution of the country, necessitated the re-orientation of the methods of disposal of postal complaints. As a commercial department, it had to keep the customers satisfied. The re-organisation of the complaints organisation was made in 1953 AD and a single separate complaints branch was created at all levels and there was to be co-ordination and centralisation of this work in the Directorate.

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[136] ARPO 1886-87, p.32. ARPO 1890-91, p.26.

[137] Public works Department, P&TE F.No.8 of March 1922, p.1. The newspaper "Justice" of 5th December 1921 AD published from Madras alleged that in the Departmental examination of Inspector of Post Offices and Superintendents' Head Clerks held annually the result of the 5 years from 1917 AD to 1921 AD showed that the non-brahmins had found themselves at a disadvantage owing to the Executive Officers and responsible posts in the circle office, in most, cases being occupied by Brahmin officers and that those who breathed the postal atmosphere were aware of the cause of complete elimination of non-brahmin candidates during the examination held in 1921 AD. The paper further brought into light a case of selection of a brother of a brahmin Deputy Accountant General, Post and Telegraphs, who was then only a recent recruit to the Dept. when a lot of seniors with sufficient experience in the service failed in the examination mostly aimed to test the knowledge of the rules and working of the post office.

[138] ARPO 1931-32, p.11. The practice of the Department was thus brought into line with that of other countries.

[139] Posts and Telegraphs Directorate, No.PE.31-60/53 of 1953, 28.

[140] ARPO 1948-49, p.4.

In the new set-up, the Complaints and investigation work amalgamated at the Directorate, circle and Divisional levels and the officers in this organisation functioned directly under the control of the Head of circles in all matters except that the Directorate controlled their posting and technical matters.[141]

During the year 1953-54 AD there were 416,568 complaints received from the public. The percentage of complaints to the total money order traffic and other postal articles was 0.282 per cent and 0.009 percent respectively. Ninety three percent of the total number of complaints including those pending at the close of previous year, were finally disposed of during the year.[142]

The greater part of progress in the efficient functioning of the post office was a natural result of constant improvements made in the administrative and technical arrangements. The increase in the number of operative offices and the administrative units influenced by the increase in the multiplicity of the functions of the postal service and the consequent growth in the volume of traffic, all these factors gave rise to various issues connected with printing and supply of stamps, adequate and timely supply of articles of stock and stationery, audit and accounting of the monetary transaction of the Department and other allied problems. The Postal printing press, Postal workshop, Postal Stock Depots and Audit offices etc. emerged in the course of time and attended to the growing needs of the postal set up. The process of their development is discussed in the ensuing chapter.

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[141] Posts and Telegraphs Directorate No.PE 31-60/53 of 1953, p.28.
[142] ARPO 1953-54, p.4.

------------------------ *Chapter Six* ------------------------

POSTAL ADMINISTRATION

The history of development of the Postal Administration of the India Post is in other words the process of improvements brought about in the work of the post office and a number of other supportive units like the Training Centres, Postal Stock Depots, Printing Presses and Work Shop, Printing of Stamps, Audit and Accounts Offices. It contributed in making the system as a whole work efficient.

The Postal enactment of 1854 AD was aimed at bringing a uniformity in the working of the system in other words the Postal Administration. To make work procedure in the post office efficient and conducive to the convenience of the public, the post office Manual Rules were introduced in 1854 AD.

Procedure in the Post Office

Rules for the management of the Postal Department, by the said Act substituted all the existing rules, general order and proclamations issued by the Government for the guidance of the Post Office Departments of the different presidencies, settlements of India and possessions of the East India Company.[1]

The introduction of postal stamps simplified the method of payment and helped in the accounting procedure. This practice replaced the system of granting a receipt for cash payment for every letter posted. The fixing of Letter Boxes substituted the cumbersome and tardy method of receiving letters at a window. The work of weighing, taxing, sorting and despatching letters, as well as, of resorting and delivery was expeditiously performed.

Under the system of " registration " of letters introduced throughout India in 1854 AD, a printed receipt with a record in the post office was issued to the sender. The particulars of the letter were entered in a register. The letter itself was wrapped in a printed form and the duplicate receipt was made and given to the despatching clerk. The address of the letter was then entered at length at the foot of the challan, and the letter itself, enclosed in its wrapper, was put in the mail packet with the other covers, and despatched. On arrival of the packet at the office of destination, the letter was delivered to addressee, who was required to sign the receipt in duplicate, one half of which was returned to the office of despatch, and the other half was kept in the office of receipt.[2]

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1. Rules for the management of the Post Office Department, 1854, p-60.
2. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.80.
3. Financial, Separate Revenue, A.16/18 of March 1873 p.2.
4. Financial, Separate Revenue, A.8/10 of February, 1870, p.2.

The postal stamps were available for sale at post offices, Tehsildaree, Thana and Police Station and with every licenced stamp vendor.[3] They were to ensure that the supply kept on hand was at all times equal to at least one week's demand. A discount of anna in the rupee was allowed to them as a discount for sale of the stamps.[4]

At each Presidency Post Office banghy parcels were received every day, excepting Sunday, for despatch from 10 A.M. till 5 P.M. and newspapers and letters every day till 6 P.M. But after 1859 AD they were received till 7 P.M. with a late fee of 8 annas on each article. At other post offices, the banghy parcels were received for despatch from 10 A.M. till 4 P.M. and letters and newspapers till 5 P.M. and with usual late fee till 5-45 P.M.[5]

In 1861-62 AD, improvements were made in sorting of letters and the increased postal traffic impelled opening of more sorting offices.[6] The setting up of more sorting offices resulted in reduction in the number of packets prepared by each post office from 50 to 80 percent. The bulk of unsorted mail was reduced and simplified for receipt and despatch.[7]

Letters sent from one office to another were properly bundled with the address upwards and in one specified direction so as to be read without turning them. To avoid delay in sorting of letters with native or vernacular language, their destination was written in English with red ink at the office of posting. Rules made for despatch, receipt, distribution and disposal of unclaimed and refused letters were enforced.[8]

The Postmaster of the district headquarters compiled and submitted a monthly cash account which included the accounts of all minor post offices in the district. He drew and disbursed through superintendents, overseers and others the pay of the postal establishments in the district. Such post offices were termed disbursing offices.[9]

To serve the requirements of the plantations etc. a system of renting the post boxes or bags was introduced in 1869 AD These bags were dropped by runners and rural messengers as they traversed the plantations. These bags were conveyed by the Mail Cart and Horse Post also.

The introduction of the institution of "Branch Offices", the gradual takeover of the District Post management and consequent development of the Department, necessitated the changes in the system under which the post office avoided superfluous work and complexity of accounts and forms. The entire system of post office work was revised and a revised Post Office Manual was introduced in 1873 AD.[10]

In 1873-74 AD, the discount granted to the public or the larger purchases of postage stamps made from the Treasury was discontinued. In the case of postmasters and other retail vendors, a reduction from one anna in the rupee, or 6 1/2 percent, to half an anna in the rupee or 3 1/2 percent was made in discount on sale of stamps.[11]

The postal expansion to the interiors of the districts created new problems, in regard to their functioning, proper financing, satisfactory mail arrangements and supply of essential articles of furniture and equipment etc. Up to 1877-78 AD the policy of the postal department had been to discourage the retention of cash by its post offices and to avoid all money risks. But the close of that year witnessed a new departure when the Department entered upon a series of commercial undertakings which had entailed pecuniary responsibilities.[12]

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[5] Ibid p.2. [6] Home (Public) letters from Court, 1853, p.514.
[7] ARPO 1861-62, pp. 3,4,5. [8] Ibid p.4.
[9] Financial, Expenditure, A.384-399 of April 1868 p.3 and L'Union Postale, No.14 of 1876, p.251.
[10] ARPO 1871-72, p.10 and ARPO 1873-74, p.1. [11] ARPO 1873-74, p.2.

The rules requiring all the postmasters to purchase the stamps for sale with their own money rendered it difficult to enforce keeping of a sufficient stock to meet the requirements. In 1878 AD, permanent advances were sanctioned, however, the discount given on the sale of stamps continued considering the trouble and responsibility involved in the sale of stamps.[13]

Taking over of the management of the money order business in 1880 AD necessitated for providing funds with small outlying post offices for payment of the money orders. The departmental system of account based on the centralisation of disbursements of all kinds was so far confined to selected principal offices known as disbursing offices and head offices. To deal with this problem the power of disbursement was extended to sub post offices in 1881 AD. A new Post Office Manual was, therefore, framed in 1881 AD which embodied all the changes of the past few years and introduced the needed reforms of the system.[14]

Sub and branch offices remitted by post daily to the Head office what they collected and obtained by post monthly from the head office what they required for the payment of establishment etc. A post office situated beside a Government Treasury has to draw all money to be disbursed and had to remit all money collected to the Treasury on the same day. This system was cumbrous. This practice was discontinued in 1880 AD[15]

The post offices used to forward the original application as advice for payment of money to the Head Office of payment for preparing the order.[16] But later this practice was discontinued and revised forms for money orders were introduced in 1911 AD The Forms were simplified and were specially designed to be folded into convenient letter size for transmission by post.[17]

The commission on money orders was accounted for by the office of issue by means of postage stamps affixed to the application. In 1880-81 AD, the system of payment of the money order fees and parcel postage by way of stamps was changed and under the revised system they were credited in cash.[18]

As a general rule, the post offices effected delivery of mails up to 6 P.M., but in cases where an important daily mail could not be distributed by that hour, a later delivery hour was fixed. The foreign mails arriving by sea which reached after 6 P.M. were to be delivered up to a reasonable hour of night.[19]

The transfer of management of Savings Bank business from Treasury Department to the post office took place in 1882 AD In order to cope up with the new business, rules for the working of the Post Office Savings Bank were framed in the said year.

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[12] Pro. of the S.C.P.S.C.,1887, p.43.

[13] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue. Post Office, A.631 and 632 of August 1885, KWs, p.1.

[14] ARPO 1880-81 p.4.

[15] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.105-119 of January 1880, p.46.

[16] Ibid, p.48.

[17] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.105-119 of January 1880, p.49.

[18] Post Office Manual, Vol.I, 1883 (3rd Edn), p.73.

[19] ARPO 1881-82, p.23 and ARPO 1882-83, p.1.

Thus by 1882 AD the post office undertook numerous new items of business and for the purpose of distribution of work and responsibility, the work of the post office was classified into different branches, namely, Mail, Sorting, Delivery, Sub Account, Deposit, Registration, Parcel, Money Order, Savings Bank and Cash Departments. A memorandum of distribution of work showing work under each branch with hours of duty and the name of each member of staff was prepared and notified to the concerned office. The functions of some of the important postal branches were as under:[20]

(a) Mail Branch : The duties of this branch were to receive bags from the couriers and keep in custody until they were transferred to the delivery, sorting and parcel departments. The Forward mails were, however, sent onwards to destinations through this branch of the post office. The mail branch dealt only with closed bags, however, the transit bags addressed to the office were opened and the bags contained in them were disposed of by the branch as described above.

(b) Sorting Branch : The responsibility of the Sorting Department was clearance of the letter boxes, sorting of mail, and handing over of mail bags to Mail Branch. The sorting department performed the work connected with stamping of articles, obliteration of postage labels and sorting of the mail as prescribed. It received registered bags from the registration department, account bags from the sub-account branch and parcels accompanied by parcel lists intended for offices to which parcel bags were not sent from the parcel clerk and was responsible for placing all these in the proper mail bags prepared.

(c) Delivery Branch : The opening of station mails and their distribution to postmen and to the clerks in charge of the window delivery.

(d) Sub Account Branch : The branch disposed of the contents of account bags received from sub offices and made over to it by the delivery department and prepared the account bags. It was responsible for their transfer to the sorting department for despatch to sub offices. It was also responsible for all remittances received from branch offices which it must make over at once to the treasurer and also for the comparison of the money order and savings bank memos with the documents received with them. It was also charged with seeing that the reconciled balances of the daily accounts agreed with the balances shown against the sub offices in the head office account. It was responsible for the correct preparation of the books and documents appertaining to the sub account department.

(e) Deposit Branch : The branch dealt with articles which were not disposed of at the time of delivery. The responsibility of the branch extended to all un-registered articles received by it from the delivery and sub-account departments to be kept in deposit, either with a view to the ultimate delivery as in the case of articles retained pending arrival of the addressees or for the purpose of being redirected or forwarded to the Dead Letter Offices for disposal. This branch was also responsible for the postage due on all un-paid unregistered articles including value payable un-registered book packets in deposit, and for the correct preparation of the deposit and forward accounts.

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[20] Post Office Manual Vol.I (1883), pp. 18,61,71,409,89,161, 49, 151,47,101,123,187,255,293 & 410.

(f) Registration Branch : The responsibility of this branch commenced when articles were tendered for registration by the public or when station and sorting registered bags were received by it from the delivery and sorting departments, and continued till the registered articles were handed to the postmen for delivery, or made over enclosed in registered bags to the sorting department and in the case of heavy registered packets, transferred to the parcel department. It was also entrusted with the duties appertaining to insured registered letters for the transmission of which special precautions and procedure were adopted.

(g) Parcel Branch : The parcel branch dealt with all parcels including insured and value payable. It was entrusted also with all the duties appertaining to the parcels received from other offices for delivery or onward transmission.

(h) Money Order Branch : The responsibility of the money order department in respect of the issue of the money orders commenced with the receipt of money order forms accompanied by the requisite amount from the remitters and continued until the money orders issued were transferred to the registration department for onward transmission. The money orders received for payment were also examined and distributed to the postmen and on being brought back by the postmen duly paid, their examination and further disposal comprised of its duties.

(i) Savings Bank Branch : This branch of the post office was responsible for the performance of all duties connected with the opening, closing and transfer of depositors' accounts and the receipt and repayment of deposits. It was also charged with the responsibility of preparing the ledger and all other savings bank books and documents punctually and correctly. It was accountable for all money received as deposits which it was required to make over daily, before the office was closed to the treasurer.

j) Cash Branch : The monetary transactions of a Disbursing or a Head office were exhibited in two accounts , namely the Cash Day Book and Cash Account. The Cash Day Book was the account of cash receipts and payments of the office itself. The Cash Account included not only the transactions entered in the Cash Day Book, but also the transactions of sub offices, and items which were not cash, e. g., postage due. The balances of the Cash Day Book comprised cash and postage labels, which were considered as cash. These were shown as separate items. The balance of the Cash Account comprised of (1) Cash and postage labels entered as a single item, (2) amounts due from sub offices and (3) postage due on articles in deposit.

Constant changes were continued to be made to improve the system of work of the post office. The work of the post office as modelled into the above branches continued to be strengthened. The Manual of Post Office Rules and Order published for the guidance of the postal officials extended to four volumes by 1889 AD the first and second volumes contained the rules and orders relating to the several departments of a post office. The third volume dealt with duties of the supervising officers, Superintendents and Inspectors of post offices, Examiners of Accounts, Managers of Dead Letter Offices and the Officers of the Stock Depots. The fourth volume contained the rules and orders prescribed for the Railway Mail Service, rules for the passenger service and the Bullock train were published separately.[21]

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[21] Post Office Manuals I to IV, 1889.

To enable the public to see for themselves whether their letters were delayed in transit or not, clear and distinct hour-type in the date stamp of post offices was introduced and prescribed for general use in 1896-97 AD.[22] In 1897-98 AD the senders of ordinary letters were exempted from the trouble of filling up a form of receipt.[23]

The arrangement of the head and sub offices was modelled in such a way so as to eliminate large number of errors committed by subordinate offices and achieve perfection in account. The transactions of the branch offices in direct account with and those of sub offices in jurisdiction were incorporated in the accounts of the head office. This account unit, i.e., the head office sent on the first of each month a cash account to the concerned audit office. In addition to the monthly cash account, the head office, sent daily, weekly or fortnightly as the case required to the concerned Audit offices, the journals of money orders, Savings Bank and Cash Certificates transactions of its own and its sub and branch offices supported by vouchers. On promulgation of the Post Office Act of 1898 AD, all the notifications and rules inconsistent with the new Act were saved and 38 of the notifications which were believed to be in force in whole or part were collected, re-arranged and published in Volume V of the Post Office Manual in 1899 AD.[24]

The system of identifying the illiterate payees by their thumb impressions for the payment of money orders was introduced experimentally in 1898-99 AD and extended to the whole of the country and came to be applied to the case of all payments to illiterate payees by 1899-1900 AD.[25] All the money orders of the value of 15 rupees and upwards received for payment at the three Presidency houses were continued to be paid in gold in the said year also.[26] As a result of further improvements brought in the service, revised forms for money orders were introduced in 1911 AD. The forms had been simplified and were specially designed to fold into a convenient letter size for transmission by post as discussed earlier.[27]

For the convenience of the public, cheque drawn on local banks were accepted in all the posts and telegraphs offices in important cities for payment of certain posts and telegraphs dues from 1918-19 AD onwards.[28]

In 1921 AD, the Branch post offices were permitted to perform parcel work independently of their account offices and to exchange both registered and unregistered parcels direct with the offices or sections with which they were in communication.[29]

Owing to the increase in the number of persons who preferred to take delivery of their correspondence at the window of the post office and in order to facilitate sorting of correspondence, the Post Box system was introduced. Under this system, a number was assigned to the post box of each window delivery ticket holder who was advised to have his correspondence addressed to that number.[30]

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[22] ARPO 1896-97, p.2. [23] ARPO 1897-98, p.2.
[24] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.377 of May 1899, p.1. [25] ARPO 1898-99, p.1 and ARPO 1899-1900, p.2. [26] ARPO 1899-1900, p.2. [27] ARPO 1911-12, p.2. [28] ARPO 1918-19, p.2.
[29] Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, F.No.G.No.3 of January 1921-22, p.1 of KWs. Insured and value payable parcels were continued to be received and despatched through the account offices. [30] ARPO 1926-27, p.7, Industry and Labour, Post Office, File No.48. P&T of 1925, S.Nos.32 of March 1926, pp.3. & 4 of Note. The system was introduced in 1907 AD.

A system of "Identification cards" which contained a full description of the holder, his signature and his photographs was introduced in 1929-30 AD for the benefit of tourists and travelling representatives of firms. It was useful in establishing the identity of the holder on occasions when he had to obtain payment of money orders or delivery of registered letters and insured articles.[31]

With the amalgamation of Posts and Telegraphs Department additional Manuals were required for matters relating to the Telegraphs Branch namely Engineering and Traffic also. In 1934-35 AD, the Manuals containing rules on Posts and Telegraphs procedure published for the guidance of the officials of the Department in all of its branches consisted of a set of 11 volumes. Some of these volumes had two or more parts.[32] Six Departmental Manuals containing rulings on operative work were got revised, printed and issued to the post offices in 1986-87 AD Remaining 8 Manuals were updated, revised and Franking Machines translated in to Hindi and printed in 1987-88 AD.[33]

Every irregularity noticed against any office or section of the Post Office and Railway Mail Service was, as a rule, recorded in Error Extracts maintained by the respective offices and reported to the controlling officers.[34] By strengthening the work procedure of the post office from time to time uniformity was enforced in methods of work and operation. The varying stages of economic and cultural development reached by various parts of the country, the post office had to keep abreast with the modern developments of technical sciences. The mechanical aids were, therefore, commanded to be at the service of the post office.

Mechanical Aids

Franking Machines

The use of Franking machine which prints the postage label, with a single manipulation, duly indicating the name of the owner of the machine on the stamp was authorised in Government offices, public bodies and commercial firms in 1923-24 AD.

The Franking Machines, licensed by the Department for the pre-payment of postage, are popular with the mercantile firms and government institutions. At the end of 1945 AD, there were 501 such machines in operation. In 1979-80 AD, with a view to encouraging the use of Franking machines the user of the machine was allowed to post franked articles at not more than five post offices instead of two as was permitted earlier. The re-setting of Franking Machine was made to be done at the premises of the holders of the machine instead of having the machines to be brought to the post office for the purpose. These facilities were extended in 1979-80 AD, to popularise the use of franking machines and thereby reduce the demand for postage stamps considerably.[35] At the end of March 1992 AD, there were 37,372 such machines licensed by the Department for pre-payment of postage.[36]

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31. ARPO 1929-30, p.3. The fee for an identification card was a rupee.
32. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35 AD p.96. 33. ARPO. 1985-86, p.21
34. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.89. 35. ARPO. 1946-47, p.25
36. ARPO 1923-24 p.2. and L'Union Postale 1926, p.41. The Franking Machine was introduced first in 1920 AD.

During 1953 AD the Postcard Vending machine was tested and in the following year 10 such machines were installed.[37] For installation of various mechanical aids at Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi action was initiated during 1954 AD.[38]

The other mechanical aids mostly used by the Department are Machines for printing tag lables, Registerex, Cash Registers for booking registered letters, Adding and Listing machines, Obliterating machines, Bag washing and Bag Dedusting Plants and Digital Weighing Scales.

Machines for Printing Tag Labels

Electrically operated Adrema Machines were installed in Bombay,Calcutta and Madras sorting offices for printing of tag labels, check slips etc. This has dispensed with the more laborious process of making the entries in manuscript and has also achieved greater neatness and legibility besides in man-power. As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 140 such machines in use by the Department.[39]

Registerex Cash Registers for booking Registered letters

The use of these registers at various post offices commenced during 1979-80 AD. Similarly Ascota Adding-listing machines were brought into use in Savings Bank Control Organisation in the same year.[40] As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 249 Registerex machines Cash Registers and 1038 Adding and listing machines in the post offices.[41]

Bag cleaning machine

The Bag cleaning machine was installed in Calcutta General post office in 1956 AD. Three Bag Dedusting plants were installed initially in three States in 1985-86 AD. At the close of 1991-92 AD, there were 7 Bag Washing Plants and 5 Bag Dedusting Plants.[42]

Digital Weighing Scales

Digital weighing scales were provided in selected post offices for simplifying the work at the enquiry counters in a phased manner. As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 8692 such scales in use.[43]

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37. ARPO 1953-54, p.27. L'Union Postale, 1908, pp.167,168. The stamp vending machine was developed in 1900 AD and submitted to the German Imperial Post Office by an engineer of the name of Abel. In 1907 AD, it was adopted by the German Post Office. By dropping into the slot of the machine, the customer could take the stamp delivered automatically, worked by an inside spring up on dropping in a piece of money duly accepted by the coin tester.

38. ARPO 1953-54, p.26. 39. ARPO 1955-56, p.24. 40. ARPO 1979-80, p.4. 41. Book of information, p.25. 42. ARPO 1955-56,p.24, ARPO 1985-86,p.24. 43. ARPO 1989-90,p.30.

During 1989 AD, the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal Services were processed. The central theme of the report is induction of modern technology. This emphasis on technology is aimed at making the postal operations efficient and satisfying the users. Since 1991-92 AD, for providing better services to the public, the postal service started gearing itself to assimilate the technological opportunities provided by satellite communication, computers, mechanised sorting and high speed stamp cancelling machines.[44]

Mechanised Sorting

The secret of quicker delivery of mails lies in quicker mail sorting. In the major metro cities of Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad and Bangalore, the volume of mail to be sorted per day exceeds more than two millions. In addition to the volume of mail, the Department faces the problem of peak hours. The ever increasing mail traffic has rather exposed the weaknesses of manual sorting system. As an answer to this, the mechanisation of mail sorting has been resorted to.

Automatic Integrated Mail Processing System

A project for mechanised sorting for inward and outward mail for the metropolis of Bombay was commissioned on 29th April 1993 AD. Alcatel-Bell of Belgium installed and commissioned this project of the Automatic Integrated Mail Processing system. The equipment consisting of two computerised letter sorting machines and 30 manual coding desks in six suites with control facilities were installed. The operator on each coding desk achieves a high speed of letters in coding. [45]

After the bar coding is done the mail is fed into two sorting machines programmed to sort simultaneously for 200 destinations each at a speed of 30,000 letter per hour.[46]

Counter Mechanisation

Computer mechanisation has been another thrust area. To provide multiple transactions at one counter to the public, on an experimental measure, 102 personal computer-based multipurpose counter machines were installed during 1990-91 AD, in 22 selected post offices in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Lucknow.[47] Based on this experiment and evaluation, the Department has decided to instal some more such PC based multipurpose counter machines. Orders have been placed in 1993 AD, on two public sector companies in India for supply of 1000 more counter machines in post offices in various States.[48]

Savings Bank Computerisation

The first Savings Bank computerisation scheme was implemented in 1986 AD. Progress of Savings Bank computerisation also has been satisfactory in the seven head post offices of

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[44] ARPO 1989-90,p.26,27. [45] ARPO 1992-93, p.34, ARPO 1992-93, p.25 and ARPO 1990-91, p.27.
[46] ARPO 1990-94, p.48. [47] ARPO 1990-91, p.34. [48] ARPO 1992-93, p.34.

Delhi circle. Twenty one more head post offices in the country including upgradation of the system already provided in some of the head post offices have been selected for installation during the next 3 years beginning from 1992-93 AD.[49]

Computerisation of Postal Life Insurance Operations

During 1992-93 AD, in the postal life insurance branch, the existing systems in Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamilnadu and Gujarat circles are upgraded to handle large number of Postal life insurance policies and transactions. The Postal life insurance operations in all the remaining circles are computerised/proposed to be computerised by 1994 AD.[50] This apart, the back office work like Management Information System, Head post office Accounting system etc., are also being considered specially with a computer networking system.[51]

Stamps, Seals and Stamp Cancelling Machines

Twenty Fast Stamp Cancelling Machines for expeditious processing of mail posted for despatch were imported in 1980-81 AD. The machines were installed in post offices in big cities where lack of space for doing this work was a serious constraint in efficiency.[52] High speed stamp cancelling machines capable of 400 impressions per minute were brought into use by the post office in 1985-86 AD. [53] After an initial experiment of successfully operating 60 such machines, the Department proposed in 1993 AD to supply another 270 machines to the post offices. The Department has also placed orders in 1993 AD for manufacture of machine engraved hardened steel hand stamps for cancellation.[54]

The amalgamation of residuary princely state's postal systems and the rapid postal expansion of the system during post-independence period were carried out smoothly as the work procedure in the post office had been strengthened and uniformity in its practice had been enforced. The adoption of various mechanical aids to keep the Post Office atleast with technological advances has helped India Post serve better the different parts of the country reaching various stages of economic and cultural development. The growth of work in the post office had necessitated periodical review of its establishment for better management of the services.

Periodical Review of the establishment

In 1854 AD, a review of delivery establishment in the Presidency towns was undertaken and the staff was augmented. The increase in the correspondence consequent on the gradual taking over of the management of the District Post in 1867 AD necessitated revision of the sorting, delivery and supervisory establishments of the post office.[56]

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[49] ARPO 1992-93, p.26. [50] ARPO 1992-93, p.26. [51] ARPO 1992-93, p.34.

[52] ARPO 1980-81, p.6. [53] ARPO 1985-86, p.24. [54] ARPO 1992-93, p.27.

[55] ARPO 1992-93, p.27 and ARPO 1990-91, p.26.

With the addition of new items of postal work a necessity arose to examine from time to time the strength of establishment of an office in order to see that the staff was commensurate with the amount of work performed by an office. The work done in a post office was measured in terms of time. Staff was also measured in terms of time. It thus became an easy matter to find a relation between the total work time unit and the staff strength of an office.

The system adopted in the Post office for determining the staff requirements of an office was technically known as a "Time Test". The "Time Test" formula of the post office first compiled in 1895 AD was tested in various ways before it was adopted in 1898 AD.[57] The method followed in this system was to allot time values to different kinds of postal traffic, calculate the total time required to dispose of an average day's traffic and to fix a ratio between the total time thus arrived at and the strength of establishment for the office.

In the Railway Mail Service, a time test some what on the lines similar to those of the post office was adopted 1906 AD.[58]

The post office Time Test formulated concerning the work in the Sorting, Delivery, Registration, Parcel, Money Order, Savings Bank and Sub Account branches covered by the post office was revised eight times by 1922 AD since its introduction in 1898 AD.[59] The said Time Test did not cover the items of work in Treasury and Accounts, Mail and Deposit and Correspondence and Enquiries branches of the post office. In order to meet the conditions created by the intermittent nature of the work, one clerk was allowed for every 5 hour's work indicated by the time test, leaving a margin of 3 hours for attending to duties not covered by it.[60]

The new time test introduced in 1922 AD resulted in reduction in the sanctioned staff. The reason was that under the sorting and delivery departments where the largest volume of traffic came, the time allowance had been severely cut down. The increased allowances were under the items where the total amount of work was small. A correspondence clerk in all

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56. Financial Expenditure, A. 384-399 of April 1868, and ARPO 1867-68, pp 3,4.
57. Public Works Department, December 1921, p.1.
58. Bewoor, G.G., Report on the Time test in the post office 1929, p.25.
59. Public Works Department, Post Office, File No.2 of December 1921, p.1. The important changes made in the time test of 1898 AD were as follows:

(a) In 1902 AD separate provision was made for value payable registered letters and packets.

(b) Since 1907 AD the time taken to deal with each article were expressed in minutes and decimals of a minute instead of in minutes and seconds.

(c) Consequent on the introduction in 1912 AD of a rule requiring the preparation of receipts for ordinary registered and insured articles by the offices of delivery, the time allowances fixed for registered and insured letters were revised.

(d) In 1912 AD in applying the time test to the work of the sorting department of a head office, where the detailed sorting had to be done by the Railway Mail Service, a reduced time allowance was prescribed.

(e) In 1920 AD separate time units were provided for work in connection with the issue and discharge of certificates.

offices with more than 15 clerks and an accountant for every head office outside the time test were sanctioned in 1924 AD. In the same year, a separate treasurer was also defined as justified where the daily average cash handled in a post office was 10,000 rupees or more.[61] To determine the clerical staff required for a Dead Letter Office, a general formula was prescribed to be adopted in 1925 AD.[62]

The introduction of the post office cash certificate and the requirements of the Audit office for various returns with regard to savings bank work, the introduction of registered and insured bundles, the new regulations requiring money orders to be sent in closed covers, resulted in an increase in the work and consequently some of the time allowances were found to be inadequate.

Mr. G.V. Bewoor appointed in 1928 AD to take up the question of revising the time test made important changes in the scheme and framed separate time tests for operative staff and for supervisory staff in the Post office, Railway mail service and Dead letter offices.[63] The Bewoor's Time Test for operative and supervisory staff consisted of two statements, (i) The work hours statement, and (ii) the staff hours statement. The work hours statement indicated the time allowances required to perform different items of work and also the allowance for miscellaneous work in each branch. The staff hours statement showed the total staff hours and the net staff hours available for doing the work after making allowance for rest, unavoidable interruptions to duty, split duty, night duty and outdoor work.[64]

As a result of his recommendations, the distinction between large and small offices for making an allowance for miscellaneous work was done away with. Separate statistical registers were introduced in the more important branches so that the figures could be recorded from day to day and a definite stand for sanctioning of the supervisory staff was prescribed on the basis of the number of clerks working in each branch of the post office.[65]

A new scheme of the Time Test for the Railway mail service, on the same lines as in the post office was also framed by Mr. Bewoor. Certain changes were made by him in the standard for work-hours as well as for the staff hours of the Railway mail service Mail Offices as the existing staff sanctioned in those offices was found to be inadequate.[66]

For determining the staff in the Dead letter offices, Mr. G.V. Bewoor made changes in the standard for operative staff and co-efficient was allotted in order to make allowance for

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60. ibid.
61. Bewoor, G.G., Report on the Revision of the Time Test in the post office, pp.4.6. The time test of 1922 AD was introduced by the Director General based on the result of the enquiries in the matter conducted by the
Postmasters General in 1920 AD and after actual tests carried out by two offices.
62. Bewoor, G.G. Report on the Revision of the Time Test in the post office, 1929, p.28. A rough standard fixed in 1919 AD to determine the clerical establishment in the Dead letter offices was in use in the Director General's office in examining the proposals for revision of establishments in Dead Letter Offices. This standard was one clerk for every 120 articles of all classes required in a Dead Letter Office after deducting those transferred to other Dead Letter Offices. the formula recommended by Mr. Rowland Hill, T. Chairman to examine the methods of work in the Calcutta Dead letter office in 1921 AD was generally adopted in 1925 AD.
63. Bewoor, G.V., Report on the Revision of Time test in the post office, p.7.
64. Ibid, p.23. 65. Bewoor, G.V., Report on the Revision of the Time Test in the post office, p.23.

correspondence work relating to articles in deposit. He also framed a separate Time Test for supervising staff in the Dead letter office.[67]

The Bewoor's Time Test was used as a guide for determining reduction in strength of establishment either in the Post Office or Railway Mail Service sections or Mail Sorting Offices or Dead Letter Offices in consequence of a fall in traffic. From 1932 AD onwards and the actual staff necessary was fixed in accordance with the instructions contained in the Director General, Posts and Telegraph's letter No.484-Est.A/32 of 17th June 1932 AD.[68]

The work of each post office was generally of a varying quantity. An inadequate staff meant over working of the staff, inconvenience to the public and the efficiency in the performance of duties. An excess staff meant wastage of public money and an idle staff finds opportunity for frauds.

The strength of the establishment of offices was examined as per the prescribed norms from time to time to see whether the staff was commensurate with the amount of work performed in the office. The augmentation of the staff and the growth of establishments influenced the mode of requirement for various cadres to man the services.

Recruitment

During 1854 AD the main categories of postal employees in the lowest cadre were runners and other post office servants and were known as "Inferior Categories". Above this category were the Postmen and Overseers. The clerical category which was higher than that of overseers, dealt with clerical work as well as work at the counters. Above this grade were the Deputy Postmasters and Postmasters. All these categories inclusive of the of Post Offices were classified as "Subordinate services" and were mostly filled by the natives and higher appointments in these categories also were, however, occupied by the Europeans as well. The posts of Superintendents of Post Offices and above were filled by uncovenanted officers of the post office or other Departments and by those belonging to the covenanted or Imperial service.[69]

Clerks and Subordinate Staff

In the ultimate hope of obtaining a permanent appointment, many persons worked from time to time, without receiving any payment, as volunteers, during the absence of the regular incumbents of the post offices.[70] The candidates who so assisted were picked up by the Presidency Postmasters, First Class Postmasters, Superintendents of Post Offices and Inspectors of Post Offices to take up minor appointments on vacancies occurring in their respective jurisdictions.[71]

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[67] ibid, p.30. [68] G.G. Bewoor, Report on the revision of the Time Test in the Post Office p.30.

[69]: ARPO 1855-56, p.26 Commerce and Industry. P&TE, No.2/4 of 21st October, 1859, p.2.

[70] Commerce and Industry, P&TE No.2/4 of October 1859, p.2. and ARPO 1882-83, p.22.

[71] Indian Post Office Manual of Feb., 1873, pp.120-122. The Independent or First Class Postmasters appointed without report to the Postmaster General, all peons, menial servants, clerks, munshis etc. when the pay of the

With the spread of education, those who had passed the entrance examination of a recognised university were recruited as clerks. But as this examination was not considered as a satisfactory test for a commercial department, a departmental examination was introduced in 1904 AD. The vacancies in the clerical and allied cadres were reserved to the extent of 50 percent for departmental officials since the time of introduction of the competitive examinations.[72] The test for promotion of inferior servants to the cadres of postmen etc. appear to have been introduced in 1938 AD.

The quota of vacancies in the clerical and allied cadres reserved for departmental candidates was reduced to 20 percent in 1942 AD since it was observed that every year the departmental candidates were not qualifying in adequate numbers to avail of their full quota. As a result of the agitation by the postmen and lower grade staff, this percentage was again raised back to 50% in 1946 AD.[73] The question of providing some avenue of promotion to the extra-departmental staff in the regular cadres was considered in 1946 AD and the Extra Departmental Branch Postmasters, Extra Departmental Sub Postmasters, Extra Departmental Postmen and Extra Departmental Village Postmen who were below 40 years of age and had put in at least 5 years continuous service were allowed to be treated as Departmental candidates for the purpose of appearing in the Postmen's test.[74] This concession was extended to all other categories of Extra Departmental staff in 1949 AD.[75]

In 1950 AD, the extra departmental agents who were 30 years of age and possessed the minimum educational qualification of a pass in the Matriculation examination or its equivalent were permitted to appear in the examination for recruitment of clerks in post offices as outside candidates.[76]

Separate reservation for certain castes was ordered in 1943 AD in order to give proper communal representation in the services. During 1947 to 1950 AD in appointments made by open competition 12 1/2 percent of the vacancies filled by direct recruitment were reserved for candidates belonging to these castes.[77] In 1950 AD, 12 1/2 percent of vacancies filled by recruitment otherwise than by open competition were reserved for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and 5 percent of vacancies filled by direct recruitment whether by open competition or otherwise were reserved for the Scheduled Tribes. The maximum age limits prescribed for appointments to service or post was increased by three years in case of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.[78]

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appointment did not exceed 20 rupees. Similar were the powers of the Superintendents of Post Offices. In addition they were empowered to appoint deputy postmasters, clerks, munshies and overseers etc. when the pay of the appointment did not exceed 20 rupees. Both the First class postmasters and the Superintendents were required to nominate the persons for appointments when the pay of the post exceeded 50 rupees per month. The Inspectors of Post Offices were the appointing authorities in respective Sub Divisions in case of inferior and postmen staff.

72. ARPO 1917-18, p.4. Director General, Posts and Telegraphs SPB 290/2/48 of 1948, p.2.

73. ibid p.4.

4. ibid p.2. 75. Director General, P&T No.E.295-3/46 of 31st Jan. 1947 p.1.

76. Director General, Posts and Telegraphs No.SPB.295-2/50 of 31st August 1950, p.1.

77. ARPO 1945-46, p.28 and Compilation of Orders, Instructions, etc. referred to in the Handbook of Establishment Officers Section I, pp. 58-60.

78. Ministry of Home Affairs Resolution No.42/21/49-NGS of 31st September 1950 quoted in Appendix III to the Parliamentary Debates Nov.-Dec. 1950, Annexure 14, Enclosure I, p.312.

Since 1951 AD, the Extra Departmental Agents who had put in at least 5 years continuous services as such and were below 40 years of age were considered for appointment in Class Four cadres if they were so willing and found suitable. The condition of age and service were to be the same as in the case of absorption in the postmen grade.[79]

In 1953 AD, the examination system for recruitment of clerks was discontinued and the clerks were recruited from the open market on the basis of marks obtained in the matriculation or equivalent examination. Extra Departmental Agents were allowed to compete with outsiders on the service basis. They were given a maximum of 15 grace marks for past experience in the post office.[80] From the clerical cadre, the officials were entitled for promotion to supervisory cadres of the selection grades and Inspectors of Post Offices (See Chart No. 7 for "Promotional avenues of clerical staff in Post Office and Railway Mail Service branches").

Supervisory Cadres

Since 1854 AD the responsibilities of the grades of Deputy Postmastership were entrusted by the Postmasters General to the Departmental men of ascertained efficiency and character.[81] The officials in charge of postal matters under the District Posts and known as Sub Inspectors, were on taking over of the management of the Imperial post, in most cases, allowed to continue in their posts.

With the increase in the number and volume of the post offices for effective supervision, all the Imperial and District post offices in a district were placed in charge of an Inspector of Post Offices.[82] The earliest evidence of holding of a departmental examination annually to select Inspector of Post Offices and Superintendent's Head Clerks from the subordinate staff of the postal department appear to be from 1904 AD.[83]

Since 1920 AD promotions to the cadres of lower selection grade sub-postmaster, higher selection grade postmaster in charge of a sub office or a head office and a gazetted postmaster were open to the clerical staff of the Department. The later two grades were shared by the Inspector of Post Offices also.[84]

Prior to 1938 AD the selection to the cadre of Inspectors of Post Offices and Railway Mail Services was by means of a qualifying examination of candidates nominated by the Divisional officers. In 1943 AD the method of recruitment by written competitive examination was replaced by one of a qualifying written examination followed by selection by a selection board by interview. The revised procedure gave rise to complaints, as in several cases candidates who had attained high positions in the written examination, failed to be selected by the Selection Board. This led to changes in the procedure and in 1948 AD the examination was made in two parts, written examination followed by the interview of a Board. Marks were awarded in both parts and the order of

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[79] Director General, P&T, No.SPB.295-1/31 of 3rd October, 1951, p.1.

[80] Report of the Committee on Enquiry on Extra Departmental System, 1958, p.103.

[81] Commerce and Industry, P&TE No.2/4 of 21st October 1859 p.2., ARPO 1882-83, p.22.

[82] Post Office Manual, Vol.III, 1889, pp.118-119.

[83] Financial, Salaries, Pro. C. 1546 & 1547 of May 1904, p.8. and Public Works Department,. P&T E.F. No. 8 of March 1922 p.1.

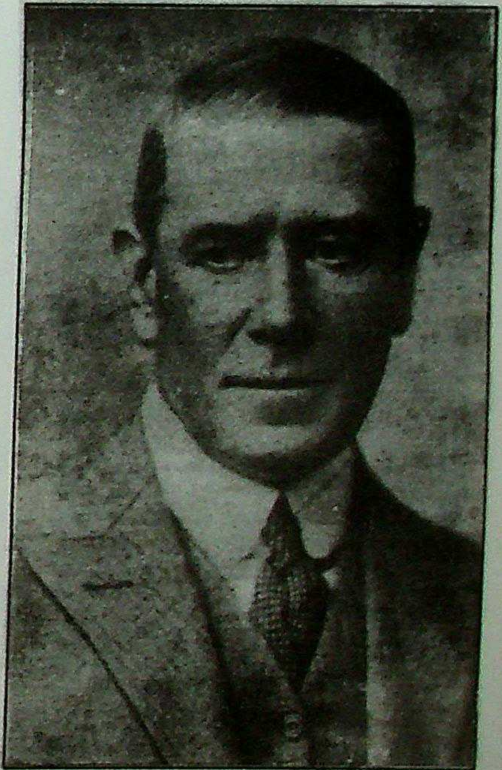
[84] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.112.

ILLUSTRATIONS

31. Hubert Sams, Kt., C.I.E.,
Director General of Post Offices in India

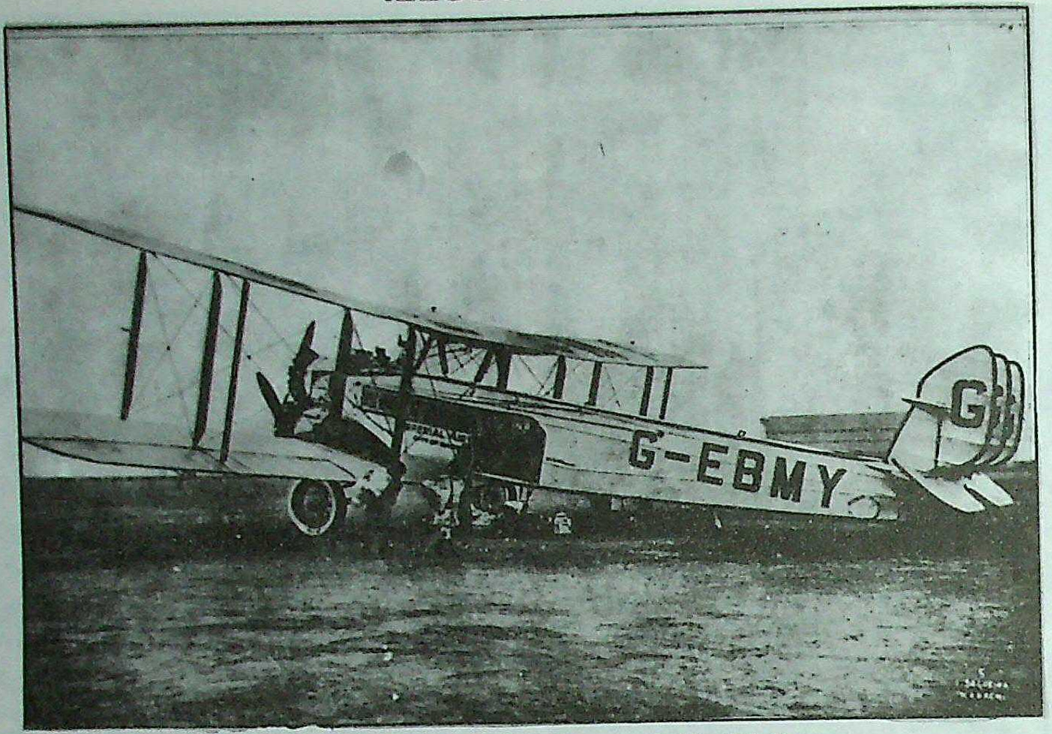
32. A distinguished Retired Officer of the Department
Mr. Khan Bahadur Faqir Hussain, M.B.E., I.D.S.M.
Superintendent of Post Office (Retired)

33. Mr. A.J. Hughes, C.I.E., Postmaster General (Retired)

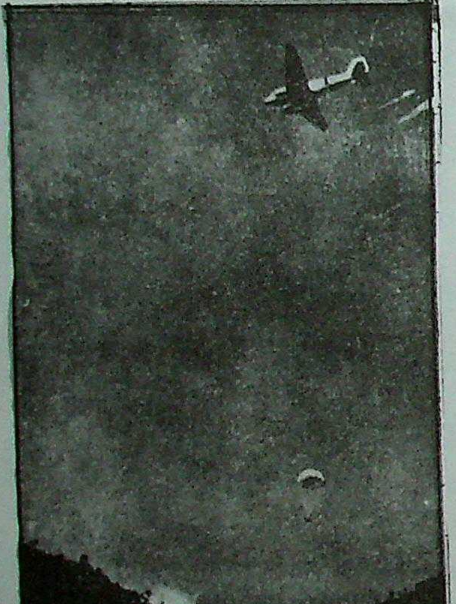


34. Sir, Geoffrey Clarke, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.
Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, India.

ILLUSTRATIONS



35. Despatch of First Outward Air-Mail



36. Army Mails being air dropped with supplies in a forward area

37 Motor Cyclists Leaving New Delhi G.P.O. on May 30, 1961 AD to deliver the "Express Delivery Mail" bags to various Zaonal Post Office for further distribution of Express Mail

merit was placed according to the total marks in the two parts.[85]

Superintendents of Post Offices

The Inspecting Postmasters created in 1854 AD, to inspect post office and the Superintendents of Mail Carts existed prior to the reforms were later came to be known as the Superintendents of Post Offices. They were, with few exceptions, Europeans and were selected as such on account of former good service in the post office and other departments. 86

To afford natives a better opportunity of entering superior grades of the department, a certain number of probationers for the Superintendent's cadre by competition was introduced in 1889 AD.[87] Thus the recruitment to the Superintendent's cadre was made in two ways (i) through open competition by the examination and (ii) by promotion from the Departmental officials. In 1920 AD, an advisory committee was ordered to be consulted in each case with a view to obtaining their advice and the comparative merits of different candidates.[88]

The British preferred to keep the "Superintendents of Post Offices" grade in the Class II gazetted cadre to be filled mostly by the departmental cadres though similar cadres in the other departments were filled with Class I cadres. Direct recruitment for the 50 per cent vacancies in this cadre was preferred by the Britishers mainly for active service in the Army Postal Service. The British treated the military might as of strategic importance to defend their empire in India.[89]

In the matters of promotion experience in departmental cadres was preferred. A clerk could through this channel, rise up to a Postmaster General etc. Such promotees had proved to be efficient and trustworthy. They had contributed in smooth running of the services in troubled times.[90] (See Chart No.7 for "Promotional avenues of clerical staff").

Since 1926 AD, the uncovenanted officers of the categories of the Superintendents of Post Offices and the Gazetted Postmasters were known as class II gazetted. The promotions to the Superintendent of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service were confined to the Inspector's cadre. Fifty percent of the vacancies were, however, continued to be filled by direct recruitment. The class II or Class I grades of Postmaster's service were filled by promotion.[91]

Superior Services or Class I posts

In 1854 AD, the superior services in the post offices comprised of the four Postmasters General and a Director General of Post Offices.[92] The Director General was appointed by the Government of India. The substantive appointment of this post was conferred on a number of the convenanted or Imperial Civil Service.[93]

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[85] Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) Debates dated 30th March 1949, p.1971 and Legislative Assembly Debates Vol.II, No. of 20th February 1947, p.1148. [86] ARPO 1855-56, p.3. [87] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.101. [88] Department of Commerce, P&T E, Nos.3 to July 1920, p.135.

89.a. Asian Review, Jan.1927, Article entitled "P&T Work in India" by Sir Geoffrey R. Clarke.

[90] ibid. [91] Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.213. [92] ARPO 1855-56, p.26

[93] Pro. of the S.C., P.S.C., 1887, p.4. [94] Ibid p.5.

The Postmaster Generalship ordinarily belonged to the Covenanted Civil service but the appointments of the Postmasters General had mostly been held by uncovenanted and military officers till 1887 AD.[94] One of the five appointments of the Postmasters General had till 1890 AD been bestowed on an uncovenanted postal officer.[95]

In 1891 AD on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission, three of the seven senior appointments in the Post Office of India were filled by departmental officers. Since 1909 AD not less than four out of eleven such appointments had actually been held by the departmental officers.[96] Since 1920 AD five permanent appointments of the Postmasters General were kept reserved for the Indian Civil Service and four permanent posts and one officiating post for the officers of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who were not members of the Indian Civil Service.[97]

The posts of the Director General, Deputy Directors- General, Postmasters General, Assistant Director General, Presidency Postmasters, Postmaster Rangoon and Superintendent, Postal Press and Workshop Aligarh were,since 1926 AD, classified as the Class I Posts in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. [98]

The Class I Posts in the Post Office were filled by promotion from Class II and Posts were determined as Administrative, Senior or Junior Scale of Class I.[99] Since 1947 AD the post of the Director General was equated to that of Additional Secretary.

The posts of Directors in charge of minor Posts and Telegraphs circles since 1946 AD and later utilised in circle offices in place of the Deputy Postmasters General since 1948 AD were filled from among the officers of the subordinate cadres. During the later year a new cadre Indian Postal Service Class I was created to hold charge of divisions having first class post offices in jurisdiction.[100]

Training Centres

The candidates who worked for no wages in the post offices got well acquainted with the work and obtained permanent appointments in the post office. The Superintendents of post offices and Inspectors of post offices explained and guided the subordinate staff whenever there was a change in the system of working or a new facility was introduced. The direct recruits who were placed as the probationer superintendents had to complete two years of training, before being made permanent.[101] The available machinery attended to the work connected with the training needs.[102]

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95. Ibid p.51. Foreign, Establishment, B. 161 of October 1911 p.3. Finance, Salaries, C. 1547 of May 1904, p.1. In 1881 A.D, a native by race and blood Mr. Rai Salig Ram Bahadur, a postal inspector, was employed as Postmaster General and in 1887 AD, Mr. Badshah of the Indian Civil Service was selected for the same appointment on the ground that he was a native of the country.

96. Commerce and Industry, P&T E. File No.162 Serial No.1 of July 1916, p.7. Foreign Establishment, B.161 of October 11911, p.3. 97. Commerce, P&T E, Nos.3 to 8 of July 1920, p.8, 135 and PWD, P&T E No. 3-6 of October 1921, p.1. 98. Industry and Labour, F.No.136/PTE of 1928, p.1. 99. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.213. 100. ARPO 1948-49, p.2.

101. Indian Post Office Manual, 1873, p.148 and Finance, Salaries, Pro. 1546 and 1547 of May 1904, p.8.

102. ARPO 1882-83, p.22. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A. 105-119 of January 1880, p.48.

It was in 1951 AD, that the first residential Postal Training Centre was opened at Saharanpur. The centre served the Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi circles and Rajasthan portion of the Central Circle. Postal clerks, R.M.S. sorters and probationary superintendents of post offices underwent a course of training in this institution. During the initial three years of its establishment the centre trained 1849 post office clerks and 19 probationary Postal Superintendents.

The second residential postal training centre was opened at Baroda on 1st July 1962 AD, to provide training to the post office clerks and railway mail service sorters recruited for Gujarat, Bombay and Central circles.[103] The training requirements of the postal and railway mail service arm of the service in the circles in Southern and Eastern India were then met by 41 postal and railway mail service non-residential local training centres. Since the training imparted in the non-residential training classes was considered to be not as good as the training given in the residential training centres, one at Mysore for Southern region and the other for Eastern region at Darbhanga were opened on 20th April 1965 AD and 12th July 1966 AD respectively.[104]

In the Postal Training Centre Mysore candidates belonging to Madras, Andhra, Mysore and Kerala circles are imparted training and Darbhanga caters to the needs of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Assam circles[105] Later came up the Postal Training Centre at Madurai. These training centres are primarily intended to impart training to the operative staff recruited for appointment as clerks and sorters. But apart from these cadres, training is imparted for short periods to the Probationers of Indian Postal Service Group A, departmental promotees to the cadre of Postal Superintendents Service, Group B and Postmasters Service Group B. Inspectors of post offices and railway mail service, upper division clerks of Post office Savings Bank Internal Check Organisation and Managers of Mail Motor Service. Training in telegraphy is imparted to postal clerks at Saharanpur centre only. Special arrangements for imparting training to lady candidates exist in all the residential training centres.[106]

Postal Staff College India

Postal Staff College India was established on 27th September 1977 AD to provide support service to the Posts and Telegraphs Board in the areas of management training development, applied research and documentation, for fulfilment of the organisational objectives of development of a dedicated management team; transformation of present system into a modern management team; and improvement of job and behavioural skill of the postal employees.[107]

The Postal Staff College was shifted to its new spacious premises at Ghaziabad in 1990 AD. Apart from the normal induction training programmes for probationers, the Postal Staff College organises a number of in-service courses, seminars, workshops, executive development programmes for officers of Indian Postal Service and other gazetted officers in the field.[108]

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103. ARPO 1962-63, p.24.104. ARPO 1963-64, p.24 ARPO 1964-65, p.17, and 1966-67, p.1.
105. ARPO 1966-67, p.21. 106. ARPO 1968-69, p.31. 107. ARPO 1976-77, p.32.
108. ARPO 1986-87, p.24, ARPO 1989-90, p.45.

Discipline

The respective appointing authority of each cadre constituted the disciplinary authority for that particular cadre. The work procedure strengthened from time to time was strictly enforced and no breach of rule on the plea of ignorance was excused.[109] Offences committed by the employees of post office were imposed with punishments like censure, fine, transfer, degradation and dismissal. Appeals to superior authority against the orders imposing any penalty were also entertained.[110]

The employee charged with an offence was given with an opportunity of refuting the charge and when practicable was brought before the inquiry officer in person. If, however, any penalty was imposed the order imposing it was invariably issued in writing and if a departmental punishment was inflicted for criminal offence, the reasons for not prosecuting the offender were invariably recorded in it. This procedure was not adopted in case of petty offences like missending of articles which also, however, did not escape punishment.[111]

Every appointing authority was required to maintain an "Appointment and Character Book," served as a register of the qualification of the subordinates under control and of special cases of good service or misconduct. This register and the personal knowledge of the subordinates helped the respective authorities in selecting men to fill vacancies or in conducting investigations in cases in which evidence was conflicting.[112]

Greater part of the offences committed by the post office officials was dealt with and disposed of departmentally, except in cognizable cases in which prosecution in a court of law was instituted.[113] The orders issued from time to time with regard to the procedure to be followed in imposing punishments finally took the shape of statutory rules, framed under the authority of section 241 of the Government of India Act, 1935 AD.[114] Under the revised rules, the penalties like withholding of increments and removal from service also stood included in addition to those enumerated earlier and the appointing and appellate authorities in respect of each cadre were specified clearly.[115]

On introduction of these rules which were known as Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1935, the number of Posts and Telegraphs officials involved in criminal offences started featuring in the Annual Reports of the Department.[116]

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109. Post Office Manual, Vol.III, 1889, pp.197. f.n from p.209
110. Ibid 235, 236, 237.
111. Post Office Manual, Vol.III, 1889, p.236
112. Ibid pp.48, 49, 118.
113. Post Office Manual, Vol.II, 1887, p.156
114. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.14 and Compilation of Orders, Instructions etc. referred to in the Handbook for Establishment Officers, Sec.I pp.216.
115. Ibid, pp.2-6. Home No.F.9/19/30-Ests of 27th Feb., 1932.
116. ARPO 1934-35, p.17, ARPO 1944-45, p.17 & ARPO 1953-54, p.38. The number of such officials rose from 240 in 1934-35 AD to 329 and 1067 in 1944-45 AD and 1953-54 AD respectively. The amount involved in the said cases rose from 0.83 lakhs in 1934-35 AD to 1.43 lakhs and 6.15 lakhs in 1944-45 AD to 1953-54 AD respectively.

The work procedure of the post office being such, it is practicable to pin-point the responsibility, detect and establish the offences. It was seldom that any body charged with the offence escaped punishment. Committing of suicides and absconding of the officials with accusations over their heads was though less in number not an uncommon phenomenon to the post office. The Inspectors recruited on the basis of their thorough knowledge in the Departmental procedure and practice usually acted as Inquiry Officers in disciplinary cases. They were eventually responsible for the conduct of proper investigations and subsequent departmental proceedings. Thus the post office entrusted with numerous monetary responsibilities could enforce proper functioning and discipline by virtue of its possession of an evaluated and perfected work procedure and the sophisticated administrative machinery in the shape of Inspectorial Cadre.

With the rapid increase in the number and staff of the post offices, during the post independence period, there was increase in the number of criminal offences also. Instead of loosing money by way of increase in the number of offences which brought a bad name to the service, it was felt desirable to spend that much amount in strengthening the investigating cadre.

The increase in the number of postal divisions and the administrative machinery resulted in decrease in the number of offences by departmental personnel from 1067 in 1953-54 AD to 871 in 1954-55 AD and similar reduction also resulted in the amount involved from 6.15 lakhs in 1953-54 AD to 5.13 lakhs of rupees in 1954-55 AD.[117]

The next issue that posed the Department was the problem of securing proper accommodation for its post offices.

Postal Buildings

In carrying into effect an improved system of sorting letters introduced in 1861 AD almost every office was supplied with special furniture for ensuring greater accuracy in preparing the mails for despatch.[118] In insisting on each office a supply of suitable furniture, attention was also bestowed towards the accommodation required for each post office. The residence of the postmaster under the same roof as that of the office, or in the immediate vicinity was insisted on, as he was to be at hand to perform his duty during night as well as by day. Standard plans for use in construction of the post office buildings were prepared and circulated for adoption in the country.[119]

In 1863 AD, all the postmasters and deputy postmasters were allowed to occupy Government quarters free of charge. The postal officials obliged to remain within the premises of the post office were not charged rent for the quarters to occupy. Such category of officials included the clerks who had to perform night work, postmen and the like. The Superintendent or Inspector or postal officers of any rank were allowed to occupy as residence free of rent, the postal buildings maintained by the Public Works Department provided their duty necessitated their living on the premises.[120]

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[117] ARPO 1955-56 AD, p.36. There was further decrease in the number of offences and amount involved to 774 and 4.24 lakhs of rupees in 1955-56 AD.

[118] ARPO 1861-62 p.6.

[119] Director General's Circular No.9 of 5th April 1870, p.1. and Indian Post Office Manual of February 1873, p.127. The Buildings designed for use as post offices were divided into 6 classes in 1861 AD for adoption keeping in view the local requirements. The seventh standard plan for post offices was prescribed in 1870 AD to suit the requirements of places situated in the interior districts.

The work connected with construction and repairs of the postal buildings was attended to by the Principal Public Works Department. The repairs of all postal buildings constructed by, or borne on the books of the Public Works Department, were arranged for by that Department in communication with local postal officers. The Departmental agency was used for construction and repairs of runner's huts, temporary sheds, small post offices, the cost of which did not exceed 100 rupees or 120 rupees.[121]

The post offices functioned generally in rented buildings quite unsuitable for the purpose. With a mass untidy tables, a large number of wooden cupboards known as almirahs and ill-designed sorting cases occupying much of the space in a post office, the sorting of letters had to be resorted to on the floor for convenience. The public being required to stand in the verandah of the post office and transact business through the windows of the buildings which was fatal to good and quick work.

The position of a post office in a town is a matter of primary importance. But in the early days chief object of the postal authorities seems to have been economy. Things, however, improved in course of time. the General Post Office building in Calcutta came into existence in 1868 AD. A large Posts and Telegraphs office facing the sea was built in Madras in 1885 AD The Bombay General Post Office building which came up in 1913 AD was then considered to be one of the finest in the East. The buildings constructed for head offices and important sub offices started appearing properly designed to provide a proper hall for the public who wish to transact business, with a counter for clerks and sufficient open space in the building to allow each branch of the post office to work independently and in comfort under the supervision of a responsible officer. By 1926 AD the Department acquired the powers for construction or purchase of buildings etc. and the powers of the Director General in this regard were also raised.[122] Buildings with such good provisions, scientifically planned and handsomely designed came up at Lahore, Nagpur, Patna, Chittagong, Bareilly, Rawalpindi, Kanpur, Howrah, Poona, Agra, Allahabad, Mandalay, Benaras, Sholapur, Mount Road Madras, Delhi, Dacca, Darjeeling, Ajmer, Ahmedabad and several other large towns gradually. (For certain Postal Buildings see Illustrations 38 to 43). Post independence period saw greater expansion in the building construction activities of the Department both for office buildings and staff quarters.

The necessities in a post office building such as space, facility for supervision and an arrangement of the branches dealing with the public, so that any one entering the office to do postal business can find his way immediately to the clerk concerned were felt and the post office buildings were accordingly planned. Necessary space especially in the sorting and delivery branches of mails began to be earmarked, in the buildings constructed. This facilitated sorting and helped in arresting the mix up of packets of mails in the wrong bags and made proper supervision possible. But the policy of the Department being generally not to build a new post office building where a house could be obtained at a moderate rent, post office buildings were constructed in important towns and places. The rapid expansion of the Department during the post-independence period necessitated the Government to initiate

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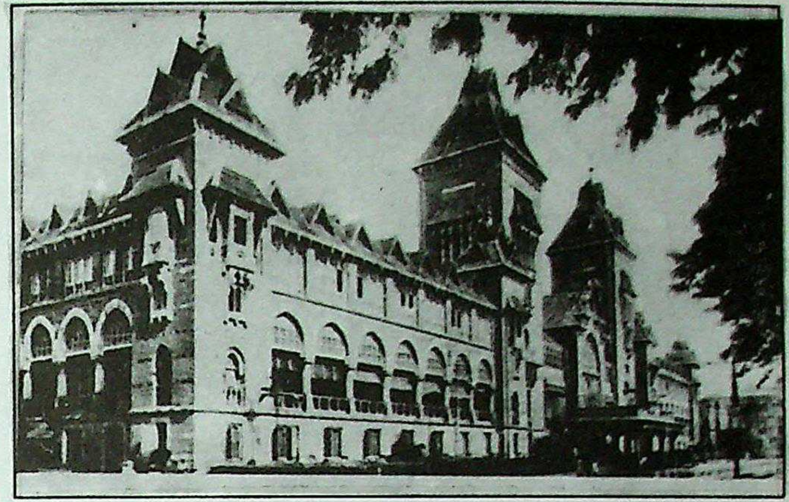
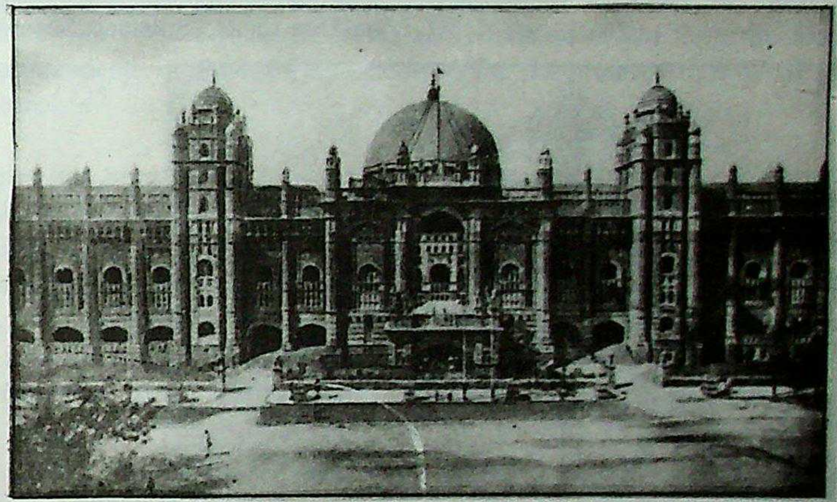
120. Finance & Commerce, Salaries Est. and others, Expenditure A.338 & 339 of August 1885, KWs p.2.
121. Indian Post Office Manual, February 1873, pp.1,2,7.
122. Industry and Labour, F.No.27 PTE of 1928, Sl.No.18, pp.13.

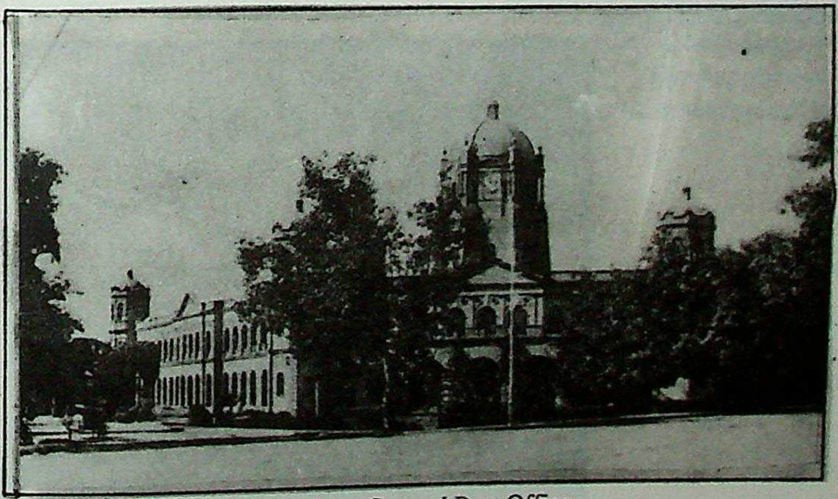
ILLUSTRATIONS



38. Madras General Post Office.



39. Bombay General Post Office

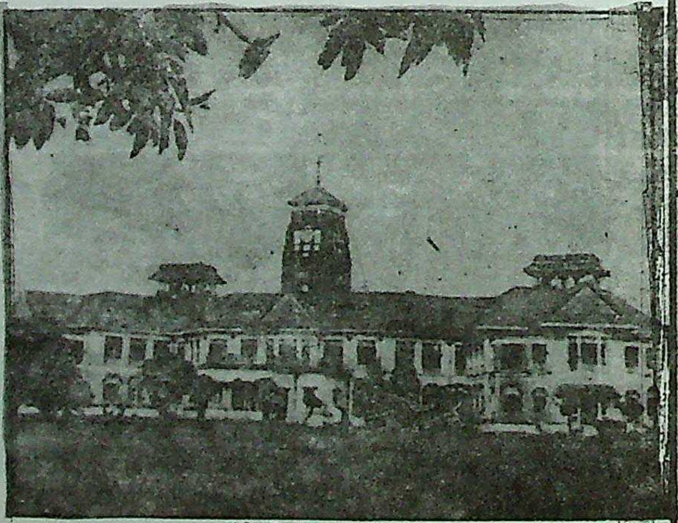


40. Lahore General Post Office

ILLUSTRATIONS

41. Postal Directorate, Parliament Street New Delhi

42. Calcutta General Post Office



43. Bela - Palace
Housing the Postal Traoning Centre at Darbhanga

measures for construction of more number of post office buildings, administrative offices and staff quarters.[123]

The supply of articles of stock and stationery required by numerous administrative and operative formations was an important problem which the postal department faced and solved.

Postal Stock Depots

The articles of stationery required for use in the post offices were purchased in the local markets from the contingent grants. In 1873 AD, Postal Stock Depots were opened and postal forms, books and stationery articles for use in all the post offices were supplied through these stock depots on indent.[124] These stock depots held in custody and supplied bags, stamps, seals, stamping pads, ink pads, reused seals, other minor articles of stock and books and forms.

The postal forms were standardised in 1877 AD. All possible precautions were taken for the proper indenting of forms, scrutiny and despatch of forms to avoid any misuse. Independent postmasters received the requisite forms and books on indent from the Stock Depots and the Superintendents of Post Offices indented for the requirements of all the offices under their control.[125]

The heads of circles had been delegated with certain powers of local purchase. Due to irregular and uncertain supply from Stationery Office, local purchase had to be made to a considerable extent. During 1927 AD a fixed stationery charge was prescribed for each post office. This charge was intended to cover the supply of stationery articles like sealing wax, pencil-coloured, lead, nibs, ink blotting, kerosene oil, candle, matches, paste, ball twine and jute twine etc. and pen holders.[126] Requirements of post offices in respect of paper, duplicating paper and carbon paper, however, continued to be met by the Postal Stock Depots.[127]

Till 1934-35 AD the supplies of consumable items like stamping ink, ink pad, circular drill cloth, pieces for ink pads etc. were obtained from the said depots. The Postal Enquiry Committee recommended in the said year for supply of these articles to the sub and branch post offices in a division to be made either from the Divisional Superintendents concerned or the Head Office with which they were in account.[128] The supplies of saleable publications required by the head offices and selected sub offices were continued to be obtained from the Stock Depots.[129]

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[123] ARPO 1913-14, p.9 and ARPO 1915-16, p.17 and Parliamentary Debates of 1st April, 1954, p.3816.

[124] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.20 and Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, pp.7-11.

[125] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.7.

[126] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, pp.15 and Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, p.21. [127] Ibid p.21.

[128] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee 1934-35, p.23.

[129] Ibid p.21.

The Postal Stock Depots, received from the Indian stores Departmental Contractors, the material for making the uniform to the lower grade staff of the post office and got made up the uniform through private contractors. The completed uniform received back in the Postal Stock Depots were distributed to the different offices.[130]

Jute and Canvas bags and most of the articles of stock were purchased by the Depots from the Indian Stores Department contractors for stock and supply to the post offices as required. Items such as bicycles and clocks were obtained through the Indian Stores Department.[131] The Postal Stock Depots also entertained the work connected with repair of certain damaged articles, the arrangements for repairs of which could not be made locally.[132]

The Stock Depots continued to supply forms, bags of all sorts, postmen's bags, uniforms, bicycles and all other post office requirements.[133] Forms were supplied to the offices on demand. The Branch offices received their supplies from the post offices with which they were in account.[134] Money Order Receipt Books were obtained by sub offices from the head offices with which they were in account and not more than one book was supplied at a time.[135]

Stock Depots formed part of each circle office. In most of the cases the Postal Stock Depots were located in the circle office premises.[136]With a view to effecting improvements for procurement, storage and distribution of the articles of postal stores, stationery, printing and distribution of posts and telegraphs forms, fabrication of uniforms, etc., the Postal Stock Depots at Cuttack, Lucknow, Ambala, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Jaipur and the Posts and Telegraphs Forms and Seals Depot at Aligarh were re-organised as Postal Store Depots with effect from 1st September 1966 AD, and placed, as separate units, in charge of Superintendents, under the administrative control of the respective heads of circles. Besides a new postal stores depot was also opened at Muzaffarnagar during the year. A Postal Stock Depot with headquarters at Jammu was set up with effect from 1st June 1966 AD.

The Postal Stock Depots at Bombay, Madras, Patna, Calcutta, Shillong, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Bangalore, Trivandrum, the Posts and Telegraphs Forms Stores at Calcutta and Nasik and the then newly opened depot at Tiruchirapalli had been reorganised earlier. The other Postal Stock Depot at Delhi continued to function as such. In all there were 21 Postal Depots namely 19 Postal Stores Depots under the charge of Superintendents and two Stock Depots as part of circle offices in 1966 AD. As on 31st March 1992 AD, there were 46 Postal Stock Depots in the country.[137] Eleven Postal Stock Depots were provided with computers in 1993-94 AD to streamline the operations as well as for simplification of work.

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130. Ibid, p.28. In Madras the work was entrusted to the Central Jails where the uniform had to be supplied and in United Provinces, the work was entrusted to the Central Jail, Kanpur.

131. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, pp.18, 20.

132. Ibid p.23. The handcarts and trucks were not to be returned to the Postal Stock Depots. They were to be repaired locally if damaged and when unserviceable to be sold locally by auction under proper authority.

133. ibid p.17. 134. ibid p.17. 135. ibid p.18.

136. ibid p.16 and Post Office Manual 1873, p.71.

137.ARPO 1966-67, p11 and ARPO 1986-87, pp.9,10. Book of Information, 1992, p.18. Book of Information 1992-93, p.18.

Postal Printing Presses and Workshop

At the time when the Post Office Department was organised in 1854 AD the Postmasters General made local arrangements to meet the requirements of Printing. The Printing work of the post offices in North Western Provinces was attended to by the Agra Orphans Press. In 1858 AD it was entrusted to the Superintendent Agra Jail for execution on payment of charges. Later the supplies were obtained from the Superintendent of Government Printing.[138] Generally, vernacular translation of rules and books of references and Printing for the Railway Mail Service continued to be given to Private Presses.[139]

The first press for the printing of the postal forms and circulars etc. was established at Bombay in 1879 AD.[140] This press printed forms for Bombay Central and Sind and Baluchistan Circle. In the same year, one more postal press was installed at Aligarh for the printing of forms. The Postal Workshop, simultaneously established at Aligarh manufactured and supplied seals, date stamps, date, month and year types, brass and pad-locks, brass-seals with weights, letter boxes and other articles required for postal purposes throughout India and Burma. It also supplied such articles to other Government Departments and Indian State Post Offices.[141]

Since 1882 AD private presses were utilised in increasing degree for the printing work of the post office namely, the tour programmes, sorting lists, notices, circulars, docket forms, envelopes and labels etc.[142] In 1895 AD, about 300 standard forms were in use in the post office.[143] The Bombay Postal Press was abolished and was merged with the Aligarh Press in 1908 AD.[144] Forms printed at Aligarh were supplied by the Press to the North Western Provinces, Punjab, Bihar, Oudh, Rajputana and Central India. These forms required for Bengal, East Bengal, Assam, Burma and Madras were printed by Government contractors.[145]

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138. Home (Public) letters from Court No.119 of 11th August, 1858, p.28. 139. ARPO 1883-84, p.21.
140. Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, p.6.
141. Financial, Accounts, A. No.1259/60 of August 1890, pp.3,6,12. and Report of Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, pp. 12,20. List of articles manufactured by the Postal Workshop:-
(1) Stamp punches
(2) Badges of any design with & without leather belts.
(3) Stamps and seals - made either of steel, brass & rubber.
(4) Rubber slabs for stamping pads
(5) Leather stamping pads
(6) Brass stamping ink tins of 1/2 or 1 lb
(7) Red stamping ink tins of 1/2 or 1 lb
(8) Letter scales, with tolas and oz. weights.
(9) Brass scales for weighing money from 50 to 250 rupees.
(10) Brass band scales
(11) Almirah (Steel iron)
(12) Cash Chests (Iron)
(13) Pad locks of sizes
(14) Locks for box, drawer or almirah
(15) Office tools of Shishamwood
(16) Lanterns
(17) Brass table lamps
(18) Hanging lamps
(19) Sign boards of sheet iron
(20) Leather letter delivery bags

The administrative control of the Press at Aligarh was transferred to the Controller of Printing and Stationery in 1924 AD.[146] The printing requirements of the circles remaining unmet by the Aligarh Press were printed at Calcutta through outside agencies and stored at and distributed by the Government of India Central Forms Store at Calcutta.[147] Bulk despatches of forms for the Stock Depots at Madras and Bombay were made by sea from Calcutta.[148]

Up to 1943 AD the supply was generally adequate to meet the demand. After 1943 AD the supply position steadily deteriorated due to the outbreak of War and allied reasons. Phenomenal increase in the growth of traffic and consequential increases in the consumption of forms. The integration of several ex-state Postal systems with the Department added to the problem.[149]

In 1952 AD, all the 1800 forms in use in the Posts and Telegraphs Department were grouped into essential and non-essential categories. During 1959-60 AD about 2000 forms were in use out of which nearly 800 were reduced and their sizes relaid.[150]

An Off-set Postal Printing Press of the Department was set up at Bhubaneshwar during 1986-87 AD in order to bridge the gap between the demand and supply of essential forms and also to meet the urgent printing requirements of the Department.[151]

The printing of essential forms i.e., those required in large quantities was entrusted to the Printing and Stationery Departments. The printing of non-essential forms was ordered to be arranged locally by the heads of circles, after due consultations with the Controller of Printing and Sorting.[152]

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(21) Drill canvas dak bags
(22) Scissors
(23) Knives
(24) Iron scale with set of iron weights from 1 to 30 tolas and spare weights from 50,100,200,300,400 and 500 tolas
(25) Letter Carrier's bags
(26) Canvas hand bags.
(27) Sheet iron book holders
(28) Copper Hom-cups for guards and Chowkidar
(29) Stamp perforators
(30) Tongas (Ambulance)
(31) Folding Almirahs
(32) Tin office boxes, with or without tray.

[142] ARPO 1882-83, p.18. [143] Finance, Accounts, A.885-898 of Sept. 1895, p.80.
[144] Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, p.6. [145] Finance, Accounts, A. 885-898 of Sept. 1895, pp.80,81. [146] Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, p.6.

The printing and supply of forms and the articles of stock to the Postal stock Depots was made through Postal Printing Presses and other sources as well. In order to strengthen the existing printing infrastructure available with the Postal Stock Depots by addition of in-house printing machines. Risograph RC-4500 Super Digital Printer Scanners (in-house printing machines) are proposed to be installed at Shimla, Bombay, Guwahati and Nagpur.[152 (a)]

For the printing and supply of postage stamps and postal stationery, the above institutions were, however, not depended upon and other methods were evolved for the purpose.

Printing and supply of postage stamps

The Postal Commission had recommended the total abolition of the system of franking and the payment of postage by means of stamps to be obtained from London. The Court of Director in London did not approve of the procurement of stamps from England on the ground of extra expense and allied reasons and directed to adopt the machinery at the Stamp Office, Calcutta for the manufacture of postage stamps.[154] Considering the likely delay in manufacture of embossed stamps through the Superintendent of Machinery Calcutta due to inadequacy of machinery etc., lithographic stamps were got manufactured through the Lithographic Press in the Department of Survey to meet the urgent requirements. For fear of forgery, the continued use of lithographic stamp was felt to be unsafe. In 1855 AD Messrs De La Rue and Co., London was engaged to manufacture and supply the postage stamps.[155]

Adhesive stamps, embossed envelopes and postcards, reply postcards etc. required by the Indian Post Office were manufactured and supplied by Messrs De La Rue & Co.[156]

Every Treasury throughout India, including those attached to Political, Customs and Salt agencies functioned as local depots for the sale of postage stamps.[157]

In 1866 AD, the Stamp Office in Calcutta under the Superintendent of Stamps was made the Central Depots for the distribution of postage stamps throughout India. The officers in charge of the Central Depots at Madras and Bombay were to keep a supply of postage stamps sufficient to the estimated demand for 4 months of the several local depots supplied by them and replenished their holdings by placing indents on Calcutta.[158]

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147. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.20. 148. Ibid p.17.
149. Report of the P&T Forms Committee, 1959, p.8. 150. ARPO 1961-62, p.9.
151. ARPO 1986-87, pp.9, 10, 32. 152. ARPO 1966-67, p.11. 152 (a). Director General's Circular No 4 dated lst Jan. 1994. 153. Book of information, 1992. p.18. 154. Commerce and Industry, Consultations No.5 of 7 April, 1860, p.1 and Home (Public) letters to Court No.55 of 27th July 1855, p.424.
155. Commerce and Industry, B.No.218/225 of February, 1891, p.15. The Senior Magistrate of Police at Bombay viewed that there was danger that the stamps then in circulation might be extremely forged.
156. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A. Pro. 1709/1711 of 29th July 1880, p.1 and A.No.518-521 of April, 1883, p.1.
157. Financial, Separate Revenue, A.No.s 8/10 of February 1870, p.1.
158. Financial, Separate Revenue, A. No.s 8/10 of February, 1870, p.1. Postage stamp for the Madras presidency including Mysore and the post offices subordinate to Madras in the Nizam's territory were supplied on the indent of the Superintendent of Stamps at Madras. Supplies of postage stamps for the Presidency of Bombay, including Scinde, Berar and Nagpur territory and post offices subordinate to Bombay in the Nizam's territory, Baroda and the Southern Maratha states were made on the indent of the officer-in charge of the distribution of the judicial stamps at Bombay. The stamps for the Bengal Presidency, including the North Western Provinces the Punjab, The Saugar territories, Bundelkhand, Gwalior, Malwa, Rajputana, Pegu, Assam, the Tenasserim provinces on the straits settlements were supplied by the Superintendent of Stamps in Calcutta on the indent of officers in charge of local Depots.

Stamps were issued on credit from a Presidency Stamp Office to officers in charge of Treasuries, but these officers when selling the stamps to Postmasters and others for sale to the public, invariably required cash on delivery.[159]

In 1873 AD, every Branch Treasury and every Tehsil Treasury was made a Branch depot for the sale of postage stamps.[160] In 1880 AD the cases of forgery of Court fee and other stamps and currency notes had come into light. Based on this experience, continuance of getting the postage stamps manufactured by Messrs De La Rue & Co. was preferred. The company continued to supply the embossed envelopes, reply postcards, single postcards, registered envelopes and adhesive postage stamps of both kinds, the postage and service.[161]

During 1895 AD the Central Depots in the presidency towns were authorised to maintain a stock of stamps sufficient for two years consumption.[162] The contracts of the De La Rue & Co. were renewed on 10 yearly basis.

In 1925 AD, the printing of Indian postal stationery and stamps was undertaken by the "Security Printing" India Nasik. The first issue from the Nasik Press in 1925 AD consisted of small registration envelopes and postcards.[163] Adhesive stamps were printed in the press commencing from 1926 AD. These were printed from the old plates in use by the former contractors in England.[164]

With the installation of the new envelope-making machines in the Security Press adequate supplies of the embossed envelopes also became available and were issued to the Treasuries from the Central Stamp Stores.[165] Thus the postage stamps and stationery needs of the Indian Post Office came to be met by being manufactured indigenously and supplied through the Government Treasuries. The postage stamps (both public and service) and stationery were supplied to the State Treasury by Controller of Stamps, India Security Press, Nasik Road for further supply to the head offices on their demand by submitting indents along with the amount through Treasury Challan.

Circle Stamp Depots

The Department took over the work connected with the supply of postage stamps from the treasury by opening Stamp Depots in each circle. The circle Stamp Depot at Ludhiana was opened on Ist March I977 AD, to cater to the needs of supply of postal stationery and stamps both public and service to all head post offices falling in the North Western circle. There were 2I Circle Stamp Depots as at the end of I992-93 AD. The work of indenting, stocking and supply of Cash certificates viz., National Savings Certificates, Indira Vikas patras and Kisan Vikas patras and Indian Postal Orders was also transferred to the Circle Stamp Depot with effect from 11th July I987 AD and Ist March 1988 AD respectively.[165a]

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[159] Ibid, p.2. [160] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.16/18 of March 1873, p.2.

[161] Financial, Separate Revenue, 1507-1510 of Dec. 1898, p.2.

[162] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.269/270 of March 1895, p.2.

[163] ARPO 1926-27, p.11. [164] Ibid, p.11. [165] ARPO 1929-30, p.7.

The revenue stamps are still supplied by the State Treasury.[165b]

Apart from the various arrangements needed for the post office, proper management of its account also weighed in no less proportion for efficient management of its services. The audit and accounting needs of the vast organisation which undertook numerous postal and non-postal functions evolved a machinery suited for its requirements.

Audit and Account Work of the Post Office

In the beginning the postal accounts of each circle were locally prepared and submitted to the local officers of Account established in each Presidency or Province for the compilation of all civil departments and in like manner the audit of post office expenditure was carried out by the local offices established for the audit of civil expenditure.[166] Account and audit work connected with the post office was attended to by the Postmasters General and the Provincial Accountants then designated as the Accountants General and Comptroller.[167]

As the Postmaster General from the administrative nature of his duty and frequent absence from his headquarters could not devote much degree of attention to the Accounts Branch of his office, the audit and account work of the post office was transferred to an officer known as "Compiler of Post Office Accounts" in 1861 AD.[168]

The work connected with the control of postal accounts included a careful examination of the entries on the reverse of cash accounts of the head offices which to some extent, were the abstracts of several branches of several registers kept in the post office. The Compiler of Post Office Accounts attended to the work connected with auditing the pay and contingent bills of the Department, and of compiling, from the monthly accounts received from post office, a monthly classified abstracts of receipts and charges, according to provinces, for the Accountant General with whom the final audit and adjustment of postal accounts rested.[169]

165a. Course material for P.S.S. Group 'B' Officers -21st March 1994. P&T Training Centre, Saharanpur, pp. 258, 260. The Superintendent, Circle Stamp Depot will submit a quarterly indent for postage stamps (public and service) less than Rs. 5 denomination and stationery not later than the 15th of the first month of every quarter to meet the estimated consumption during the next quarter to the Comptroller of Stamps, Nasik Road direct. In respect of postage stamps (public and service) of denomination of Rs. 5 and above, annual indent is to be submitted to meet the estimated consumption during the next twelve months commencing from 1st July following so as to reach the Central Stamp Depot not later than the 15th of April each year together with their indent for July to September quarter for postage stamp of the denomination lower than Rs. 5 and for postal stationery. All head offices send standard indent on the basis of which the Circle Stamp Depot makes regular supply. In case of any change or any urgent need, the indent can be modified and the supply can be made on that basis. The postmasters of Philatelic Bureau also send indent direct to the 'Central Stamps Store' Nasik Road, for their requirements of commemorative stamps and stationery. The philatelic bureau also functions as a local depot for the custody and sale of commemorative stamps and stationery.

165 b. ibid. pp 258-260.

166. ARPO 1862-63, p.12.

167. Financial and Commerce, Salaries, A.273-278 of November, 1889, pp.2248, 249.

168. ARPO 1861-62, p.35.

169. ARPO 1862-63, p.12 and ARPO 1861-62, p.12. The details recorded in the cash account of a head office not only showed the extent of transactions of each office in its several departments, but at the same time formed a

The Central Accounts Office was placed in charge of an experienced postal officer who was well conversant with the details of postal administration, and was provided with a suitable establishment working under the supervision and control of the Director General of the Post Office. The change benefited in bringing uniformity of practice in the Accounts Branch, and a wholesome check on the charges of the Department. The Compiler acting under the control and with the support of the Director General could make every postmaster feel his responsibility and attend to the correct preparation and punctual submission of his accounts.[170]

In 1865 AD, a check branch was added to the Compiler's office for the purpose of checking credits for postage collections and credits taken for redirected postage and acquittance rolls of the salaries paid to postal employees. The work of the Central Account Office was at the beginning of a simple nature connected with audit and compilation of accounts rendered by post offices. Additional work was entrusted to it from time to time.[171]

The designation of the in charge of Central Accounts Office was changed to Accountant General to the Post Office in 1880 AD and later altered to "Comptroller, Post Office" in 1881 AD.[172] In 1880 AD, when the system of Travelling Examiners of Accounts was introduced, the duty of checking of accounts connected with postage collections and the disbursement of salaries was transferred to these officers and the check branch was abolished in the Central Office.[173]

The Travelling Examiners of Accounts were substituted by stationary Examiner of Post Office Account in 1886-87 AD The examination of the accounts connected with letter and parcel postage and the distribution of salaries of postal employees was however taken care by these stationary examiners attached to the offices of heads of circles.[174]

On transfer of the money order system from the Treasury Department to the post office assistance to the Compiler was provided in the form of an officer intimately acquainted with the practical working of the postal system.[175] In the Compiler's office, the original applications of the remitters of money orders were tallied with the collections and with the money order payments thereon as well as with the actual payments. All the payments were arranged under the month of issue to which they belonged and at the end of four months the

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fair criterion of the state of work of each office. and the degree of interest taken by each postmaster in the performance of his duty. An officer unacquainted with the practical working of the Department would not have been able to do more than compare the result shown in these memoranda, on the reverse of cash account, with the entries in the body thereof. and would not judge of the causes of any extra-ordinary increase or decrease in the receipts and deductions under different heads.

170. ARPO 1861-62, pp.35, 36.

171. Finance and Commerce, Salaries, A.273-278 of November 1889, p.249. The additional work added was the examination of transactions between post offices and treasuries, the reconciliation of Postal accounts with civil accounts, the preparation of budget estimates including regular and revised estimates, the check of accounts of official postage, and the check of accounts of sales of stamps received from Superintendents of Stamps with figures reported by Provincial Accountants General. In 1874 AD the work of compilation of books connected with the post office was transferred from the Comptroller General's office. The final audit of the revenue charges the reconciliation of the Treasury Accounts and the exchange and adjustment of accounts with the civil and was also undertaken military accounts departments.

172. Ibid pp.248, 249. 173. ARPO 1880-81, p.4.

174. Finance and Commerce, Salaries, A.273-278 of November 1889, pp. 248, 249.

175. Financial, Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.105 to 119 of January, 1880, p.47.

total payments and forfeitures for any one month of issue were compared and reconciled with the collections of that month.[176]

On transfer of the District Savings Bank business, for dealing with the Post Office Savings Bank work few new clerks were added to the establishment of the Central Office of Accounts.[177]

The Compiler of Post Office and his office was placed under the control of the Comptroller General and the Finance Department of the Government of India in the same manner and to the same extent as the Civil Accountants General and Comptrollers and their offices. The Director-General occupied towards the Comptroller the same position as local governments and administration did towards the Accountant General or Comptroller of the province. The Director General was to communicate to the Comptroller all orders sanctioning expenditure etc. which he had power to issue and could obtain from the Comptroller any statements, accounts, information, or advice which he might desire, but any order requiring the authority of the Government was to be communicated to the Comptroller.[178]

Several classes of new business undertaken by the post office had contributed to the formation of distinctive branches in the Compiler's office. By 1899 AD such additional work added was (1) the audit of money orders issued and paid, (2) the audit of receipts and repayments of Saving Bank deposits, (3) the management of the Post Office Life Insurance business i.e. the issue of Postal Life Insurance Policies,(4) the purchase and sale of Government securities for Saving Bank depositors,(5) the adjustment and exchange of accounts with other account offices, (6) and other miscellaneous work usually devolved on an accounts office.[179]

The large and rapid development of the money order and savings bank business of the post office increased the audit work. On the recommendation of Mr. Badshah, the then Comptroller of the Post Office, the work of the Comptroller's Office was decentralised and in 1900 AD three Circle Audit Offices were established at Calcutta, Nagpur and Delhi. These Circle Audit Offices were placed in charge of Deputy Comptrollers, subordinate to the Comptroller at Calcutta. These offices carried out the work connected with the audit and account of the post offices, the audit of money orders and savings bank transactions excluding the inter-provincial money orders.[180]

In 1904 AD, the work connected with inter-provincial money orders was also decentralised and assigned to the local audit offices.[181] By 1907 AD the local audit office at Nagpur had grown to a considerable extent and a new postal audit office was formed at Madras in 1908 AD.[182] In 1914 AD the Posts and Telegraphs which were separate Departments each with its own account were amalgamated.[183]

The four Audit Offices of the Department located at Calcutta, Delhi, Nagpur and Madras were controlled by the Deputy Accountant Generals. These audit officers were in charge of the audit and accounts of all the branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, namely Post office including Railway Mail Service, Telegraph Traffic, Telegraph Engineering and Wireless.[184]

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[176] Finance and Commerce. Separate Revenue. A.105-119 of January 1890. p.49. [177] ARPO 1886-87. p.24.

[178] Financial & Commerce. Salaries. A.273-278 of November. 1889. p.253.

[179] Report of the Postal Accounts Committee. 1909. pp. 2.7.

[180] Report of the Postal Accounts Committee. 1909. p.2. ARPO 1899-1900. p.1.

[181] Report of the Postal Accounts Committee. 1909. pp.2.7. [182] ARPO 1907-08. p.2.

[183] Report of the Posts & Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee. 1931. p.1.

The new Posts and Telegraphs Audit offices at Jaipur and Trivandrum started functioning as independent Audit Offices with effect from Ist November, I969 AD with their jurisdiction over Rajasthan and Kerala circles respectively. Besides, another Branch Audit office at Cuttack came into existence with effect from Ist December, I969 AD for the audit of accounts pertaining to Orissa circle. [185]

The entire establishment of the audit offices although paid by the Posts and Telegraphs is under the administrative control and orders of the Auditor General of India.[186] The accounting functions done by the Accountant General Posts and Telegraphs New Delhi under the control of Comptroller and Auditor General of India were departmentalised and brought under the control of Secretary, Department of Post India from 1st April 1976 AD. As a result, the Accounts and Internal Check functions were placed under the control of the Secretary, Department of Post India. The Accountant General Posts and Telegraphs is vested with statutory audit function of the Department.[185a]

Thus with the growth in the number and business of the post office, its audit institutions also gradually developed. The post office organisation which was at a tissue level and comprised of a handful of primitive cells like network of post offices, transformed after fourteen decades of its steady growth into a multicellular individual organism namely the India Post of several organ system or institutions catering to its administrative technical and audit requirements. The change in the work procedure of several of these institutions perfected the system of working of the Postal Administration. The effective functioning of the postal administrative machinery depended on the type of staff employed and their service conditions.

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184. Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 11934-35, p.117. For Bengal. Assam, Bihar and Orissa Circles, Delhi was the Audit Office. Calcutta Audit Office took care of Punjab and North West Frontier and the United Provinces Circles, Nagpur attended to the audit work of the Central, the Sind and Baluchistan and Bombay Circles and Madras was meant for the Madras and Burma Circles.

185. ARPO 1969-70, P.5.

185a. Posts and Telegraphs Board, Ministry of Communications No 2-6/75-PA (i) dated 29 March 1976. The system of Internal Finance was also introduced from 1st April 1976 AD.

186. Ibid, p.117.

---------------------- *Chapter Seven* ----------------------

POSTAL STAFF

The India Post has been one of the major government employers in India. The service conditions of the staff, their duties, moral ethics, the trade union activity and the welfare measures adopted by the Department are interesting and needs to be examined with some details.

Post Office Staff

The Indian Postal Department is a vast organisation and provides job opportunities to people of varying intellect and capacity. In 1854 AD the staff of the Department comprised of one Director General, 4 Postmasters General, 40 Inspecting Postmasters later known as Superintendents of post offices, 663 Postmasters and Deputy Postmasters, 888 Clerks, 1,663 Postmen and other servants and 19,385 personnel consisting of road establishment i.e., the total staff comprised of 22,644 officers and servants who were permanent employees of the Department.[1]

The Deputy Postmasters were with few exceptions natives. In 1854 AD the top brass of the Department and the Inspecting Postmasters were with few exceptions Europeans and had been selected on account of their earlier good record of service in the Post Office and other Government Departments. The Europeans and Eurasians were higher paid officials than were the natives. Thereby the former used to get Superintendent's grade early.[2] The Europeans and Eurasians continued to be preferred as Superintendents, for the Britishers trusted them more during the war and other similar emergencies. Since 1879 AD, it was prescribed that no person other than a native of India as defined by the Act of Parliament was to be appointed to a post carrying a salary of 200 rupees or more without the previous sanction of the Governor General.[3] Non-domicile Europeans were, however, appointed up to 10 percent of the total number of Superintendents. This was to meet the requirements of field service and cantonments.[4] Even in 1887 AD a large number of postmasters at commercial centres, military hill stations and in foreign territory continued to be Europeans.[5]

In 1887 AD under the Departmental orders natives alone were preferred as Inspectors of Post Offices except under the special sanction of the Director General. The duties assigned to this post were usually for supervision in the interiors of the district which could be done better by a native than a European, or Eurasian.[6]

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[1] ARPO 1855-56, p.26. The road establishment comprised of Superintendents, Overseers,. Mutsuddis, Runners, Bearers, Coachmen, Boatsmen and other while the staff of bullock train establishment comprised of Agents, English and vernacular clerks, guards, drivers, overseers and others.

[2] Pro. of the S.C., P.S.C., 1887, p.8.

[3] Home, No.21/746-53 of 18th April 1879 and Section 6 of 33 Victoria, Chapter 3 cited in Por. of the S.C., P.S.C., of 1887,

[4] Commerce, P&TE, No.3, to 8 of July 1920, p.135.

[5] Proc. of the S.C., P.S.C. 1887, p.7.

In 1895-96 AD, the postal staff comprised of few women. Except in Burma, it was difficult in view of Indian social system to employ native women in charge of post offices and only a few women were appointed in the service of the Department.[7] Out of 25 women employed in the post office 24 were Europeans or Eurasians. The solitary case was that of a native woman of Sahiwal in the Shahpur district of Punjab who was appointed to deliver letters for a period of more than 20 years and performed her duties to the entire satisfaction of the inhabitants. She was a former servant of the District Post and was quite illiterate. But her appreciable knowledge of the area`and of the residents enabled her to deliver letters. Once the address was read to her, she delivered the letter correctly.[8]

In 1914-15 AD the number of Extra Departmental agents was 12,531 and in 1914-15 AD and the total numerical strength of the post office staff crossed one lakh mark in 1919-20 AD.[10]

As a result of the partition of India in 1947 AD every employee of the central government was required to give his option for service in India and Pakistan. Out of 1,36,591 Posts and Telegraphs employees of all cadres exercising the option, 1,09,235 finally opted for India and 26,284 for Pakistan.[11]

The ban on employment of women in certain cadres and the restriction on the employment of married women in the Posts and Telegraphs Department was removed in 1948-49 AD. At the close of 1953-54 AD, the postal staff included 1446 permanent and 3187 temporary women employees respectively. As on 31st March 1954 AD and 1992 AD the total strength of staff of the Department, comprised of 263 and 2480 gazetted officers, 122950 and 289047 non-gazetted Class III and Class IV employees and 57,501 and 304568 extra departmental agents respectively. In other words the total postal staff comprised of departmental personnel and extraneous agents at the ratio of 2:1 as on 31st March 1954 AD almost changed to 1:1 as on 31st March 1992 AD.

Service Conditions

The service conditions of the vast body of postal workers gradually improved. Certain aspects concerning the service conditions, namely, the pay scales of the employees and their promotional avenues have been discussed in Chapters VIII and VI respectively. The other aspects of service conditions, namely the working hours, leave terms and pensionary benefits are discussed here under.

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[6] Ibid. p.5.

[7] ARPO 1892-93, p.33 ARPO 1895-96, p.30 and L'Union Postale No.15 of 1876, p.262. Women were employed to the greatest extent in the postal service in America. In this aspect next to America was the Great Britain. But in England, female postal clerks were not as in the case in America put on equal footing with their male colleagues.

[8] ARPO 1895-96, p.30.

[9] ARPO 1953-54, pp.15,16,113.

[10] ARPO 1920-21, p.32.

[11] ARPO 1947-48, p.13.

Working hours

Conditions of work in the post office differed from those of the other government offices. The main grievance of the staff was the excessive working hours in the Postal Department. In 1854 AD, the working hours were long and irregular besides the work at night. there were no prescribed duty hours for the post office staff.[12]

In view of the nature of work the postal officials got scarcely any holiday or rest, throughout the year. For the post office staff it was quite usual to have 10 to 12 hours of duty in a day and hours of work were irregular beginning in some cases at 5 A.M. and ending as late as 10 P.M.[13] The practice of having only one delivery on Sundays even in the Presidency towns existed prior to 1854 AD. But it was changed in due course. In 1878 AD, a thought was given to this problem and in offices where, on week days, there were more deliveries than one per diem only one delivery was ordered to be affected on Sundays.[14] The amount of work on Sundays in post offices was curtailed. The two hours till then allowed on Sundays for official references and personal applications as well as for registration of letters and booking of parcels was restricted to the sale of stamps. Such curtailment of working hours on Sunday was, however, not to affect the work at any intermediate office with the transit of mails from one office to another.

The money order business was transferred from Treasury to the Department in 1880 AD and the post office undertook the said work on all days except Sundays, Christmas day, New Years day, the Queen's birth day and Good Friday.[15]

The Time Test was planned by Mr. Homan in 1895 AD and put into effect in 1898 AD which reduced the working hours of the clerical establishment to 8 hours of actual work in a day.[16] Yet the general liability to work on Sundays and the four holidays constituted a grievance in the case of its large body of postal employees. In 1911 AD, six additional holidays were granted to be selected from among those gazetted ones under the Negotiable Instrument Act. These additional holidays were to cover the important religious festivals of the native community. Time allowance or weightage for night duty or for split duty was granted since 1929 AD when the revised Time Test of Sir Gurunath Bewoor came to be implemented.[17]

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[12] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.498/499 of November 1878. p.4. Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, p.62 and Report of the Postal Telegraphs Expert Committee, 1948, p.7.

[13] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.498/499 of November 1878, p.5. Indian post office manual, 1873, Chapter IV, para 2. Covers were registered in all post offices everyday, Sundays excepted from 7 A.M. to 8 A.M. and from noon to 5 P.M. and on Sundays they were ordinarily received from 7 AM to 8 AM and one other hour which was fixed by the Superintendent of Post Offices or the Independent Postmaster.

[14] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.498/499 of November 1878, p.414. In England, in fact the country in which the smallest amount of postal work was performed on Sunday, with its branch mails, in the morning in the capital was maintained. In London, the post office windows were closed during the whole of Sunday and no delivery of postal articles took place, while in the provinces the windows were generally opened for two hours and the letters were as a rule were delivered once. Switzerland was the only country in which the question was settled by way of legislation. Since 1878 AD the offices of the Administration of the Posts and Telegraphs were released from duty on every 3rd Sunday. Their work was to be performed by the remaining employees and in case this was possible by other persons to be paid by the Administration.

[15] Financial and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A. 105-119 of January 1880, p.49.

[16] Report of the Posts and Telegraph Expert Committee, 1948, p.7.

The conditions of service in the postal department were more arduous than in other government offices, commercial establishments etc.[18] Taking into consideration of the climatic conditions of India and factors of health and nature of work undertaken, it was recommended that the Posts and Telegraphs services needed similar rationalisation i.e. a weekly off-day in the interest alike of health of the personnel and efficiency of the service.[19] In the need for a reasonable amount of spare time away from office was considered as indispensable for the maintenance of physical efficiency. To give one day's weekly off to every member of staff, Sunday was declared as a complete holiday since 1950 AD.[20] On postal holidays, however, the work connected with the receipt and despatch of mails was continued to be attended to by certain categories of postal employees.

By 1954 AD the number of holidays granted to the post office staff on the basis of the importance of the festival rose to sixteen and were observed on the same dates as far as possible throughout India.[21]

Leave

The conditions for grant of leave for superior and uncovenanted civil servants of the post office appear to have been influenced by the leave rules applicable to British post office servants. All post office servants other than covenanted civil servants, military officers and uncovenanted civil servants were entitled for leave under the rules and conditions of the Civil

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[17] Report of the Posts and Telegraph Expert Committee, 1948, p.7. L'Union Postale, 1909, pp.3,18. In Britain since 1908 AD the average working week was 48 hours, 7 hours night duty was counted equal to 8 hours day work and night duty was reckoned from 8 P.M. to 6 AM instead of from 10 P.M. to 6 AM then existed. A period of 30 minutes came to allowed in every complete 4 hours duty as a refreshment allowance.

Sir Bewoor commented on the particular conditions of work in the post office which did not admit of accumulation of arrears to any extent. The day's mails had to be delivered by the same day and despatched the same day. The accounts and abstracts had to be adjusted the same day and returns to Audit office were to be sent on due dates. The special strain which this meant was not duly considered in fixing their hours of work. the general nature of work of the post office clerks remained as was described by Sir. G. Bewoor continued undressed.

[18] ibid.

[19] ibid, pp.9,11,12,134. The hours of work (Commerce and office) convention, 1930 of the international labour organisation had prescribed the duty limits of commercial establishments and offices and it applied to the posts and telegraphs services generally. It laid down an 8 hours day and a 48 hour work a week except for persons having position of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity. The 40 hour convention, 1935 of the International Labour Organisation declared its approval of a 40 hour week applied in such a manner that the standard of living was not reduced in consequence.

[20] Parliamentary Debates, Vol.II, No.10 of 11th August, 1950, p.898. In 1950 AD there were 33 countries where no deliveries were made on Sundays. On Sundays the post offices in India were made to be closed completely as it was otherwise felt to be not possible to give every member of the staff a weekly off due to financial constraints. The then Communication Minister Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai had suggested Mr. Kamath, Member of Parliament raising the issue of curtailment of the scope of the public utility service, to induce the Finance Minister to give the postal wing one crore of rupees to meet with additional expenditure to keep the post office open on Sundays. The facility of receiving a letter on a Sunday could, however, be had by getting it posted by express delivery. The letters posted with a late fee at the Railway Mail Service were cleared on Sundays.

[21] Parliamentary Debates of 22nd April 1954, p.222.

Leave Code.[22] In the case of leave allowances under these rules the Deputy Postmasters, clerks, overseers, peons and menial servants, the officer granting them leave and appointing the substitute was authorised to retain the whole pay of an absentee for payment to the substitute or to allow the absentee to draw only such portion of balance as might be available after payment to the substitute.

The Fundamental Rules applied to government civil servants who entered service on or after 1st January 1922 AD but before the 16th July 1931 AD or having been in service on the 31st December 1921 AD opted for these rules. The revised leave rules of 1933 AD were applicable to the Indian civil servants recruited on or after 16th July 1931 AD. From 1931 AD onwards employees of Class I, Class II and Class III services were entitled to Earned Leave to the extent of 1/11th of service.[23] The inferior servants got earned leave of 1/22nd of duty throughout their service.[24] The leave could be accumulated up to 90 days in case of the superior services and 30 days in the case of the inferior services.[25]

The Central Pay Commission of 1947 AD recommended that the Class IV servants be placed on the same footings after 20 years of service as members of the other three classes.[26]

From 1947 AD half pay leave was also made to be earned like full pay leave at the rate of 1/16th of duty throughout their service for the members of Class II to Class III services and in case of Class IV service it was to be at 1/22nd of duty for the first 20 years of service and at 1/16th thereafter.[27]

It was after the end of the first world war that the leave rules were liberalised and attention was paid towards the improvement of service conditions.

Weekly Holiday to Staff

In 1951 AD, with a view to giving a weekly holiday to every employee all post offices were ordered to be closed entirely on Sundays with no clearance of letter boxes, deliveries or despatch of mails on such days except in certain specified offices.[27a] Apart from leave admissible to the post office staff, the pension received by them formed an important aspect of the service conditions.

Pension

The members of the covenanted, unconvenanted and subordinate services were, on retirement, entitled to the superannuation pension.[28] The postmen became entitled to the pensionary benefits in 1884 AD due to the monetary responsibilities imposed on them by introduction of the money order facility.[29] The pensionary benefits were extended to the inferior servants in 1936 AD.[30]

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[22] Indian Post Office Manual of February 1873, pp.125-128. [23] Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.76. [24] Ibid, p.77. Under the Revised leave rules, temporary staff belonging to the category of "Inferior service" did not carry any leave while those belonging to the three upper classes earned leave at 1/22 of servic
[25] ibid, pp.77-81. [26] ibid, p.77. [27] ibid, p.80. [27 (a)] ARPO 1950-51, p.10.
[28] Finance and Commerce, A.183 & 184 of Oct. 1884, p.138.

The Central Pay Commission in 1947 AD recommended for the change in the rate of pension from 1/60 to 1/80 of the average emoluments last drawn, per year of service.[33]

The provision of making contributions towards General Provident Fund was available for the subordinate services and above by 1921 AD.[34] The Class IV officials were admitted to these benefits in 1954 AD.[35] Thus by 1954 AD, the post office staff of all categories inclusive of the Class IV cadres became entitled to the General Provident Fund benefits also besides other pensionary benefits.

Extra ordinary pensions were granted from 1937 AD to government employees who were injured or to the families of such employees who died or were killed in the course of discharge of their duties.[31] An invalid pension roughly on the scale of the superannuation pension came to be granted to an officer when by bodily or mentally incapacitated for the public service.[32]

Moral Ethics

In many parts of the country, the mail runners were exposed to considerable danger from different wild beasts and highway robbers. The runners carried the mails through the jungles on mere tracks and it was not uncommon for a runner to meet a leopard or a tiger on the way. When there was danger, the runners were provided with lanterns and torches and were not allowed to travel alone. The bells affixed to the spear-head provided to the runners were also useful in scanning away wild animals. In the wildest parts, the runners were, generally fearless and many of them looked upon the government mail bag as a talisman.[36] Then there were highway robberies of the mail. Their accounts could be read like the early adventurous pilgrimage stories of the earlier indigenous literature.

During the revolt of 1857 AD the native subordinates of the Department in the vast affected belt of the country exhibited more devotion to service. The runners carried the mail through the disturbed districts. The native deputy postmasters also served with high degree of devotion and in some cases they remained on duty during the revolt period. But generally they were compelled to escape and could not remain in a district which had been abandoned by the East India Company officials.[37]

There were no cases of desertion from duty on the part of postal servants owing to the fear of epidemics. The men remained at their work amidst great dangers and hardships, such as at the time of epidemics like cholera, malaria, influenza and plague which depredated life of postal personnel to a great extent.

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29. ibid. 139.
30. Report of the Central Pay Commission. 1947, p.87. 31. ibid. p.88. 32. ibid, p.88. 33. Ibid, p.88.
34. Commerce and Industry, P&TE. File NO.11 of April 1921, p.2. 35. ARPO 1953-54, p.
36. Calcutta Review. Vol. 88-89. of 1889. p.118. Imperial Gazetter of India, Vol.III. 1907. p.429.
37. Commerce and Industry. Consultation No.36/38 of 9th April. 1858, p.12.

During the three decades following the outbreak of plague in 1896 AD, more than 4,000 postal officials succumbed to it. In addition there were more than 900 deaths on accounts of Influenza between 1918-19 AD to 1924-25 AD.[38] The extra ordinary malarial fever which attacked almost every postal official more or less in North India during 1908-09 AD made performance of their duty extremely difficult. Many employees, however, continued their work in spite of severe illness or who had hardly recovered from illness resumed their work.[38a]

The Postal Committee of 1920 AD pointed out that on account of shortage of establishment, the staff was not able to get the privilege leave to which they were entitled and the casual leave of 20 days per annum which had been sanctioned for them by way of compensation for deprivation of holidays. The committee while pleading for formation of an adequate leave reserve of clerical cadre in the interest of efficiency had observed that nothing could be worse for a service than that it should consist of a jaded staff and there was no service in which recreation and rest were more essential than the post office with its long hours of work and monotonous duties unrelieved by periodical holidays.[39]

The only evil noticed in the post office was the practice of extraction of unauthorised amounts by the letter carriers or delivery agents later known as postmen, while making delivery of letters to the members of the public. This practice though in vogue to a greater extent in Calcutta prevailed to a much or less extent throughout the country.[40] This evil, in its principle, was not, however, peculiar to the post office. It prevailed in a greater or less degree in all Departments of the public service.[41] The reasons for temptation of dishonesty appear to be that the postmen stood in no dread to frequent, sudden and secret enquiry by his superior officers and secondly the amount of 5 to 6 rupees paid to this category as a monthly salary in 1859 AD with no provision of increase, was so meagre even to feed and clothe oneself leaving aside the needs of the family. The bare cost of the rations of a native prisoner in Jail in Bengal was not much less than four rupees a month.[42]

Natives were preferred by the alien government for sedentary appointments like postmasters or post office clerks for they were considered to be trust worthy in money matters, obedient to rule, extracted hard work from their subordinates, rarely objected to long office hours, and if employed near their home would work for a small salary.[43]

On introduction of the money order and savings bank business and other facilities, lakhs of rupees passed through the post office. Yet the instances of misappropriation were trivial.[44] The continued repression of the Corps of these silent workers compelled them to endeavour organise themselves into Trade Unions to find strength for betterment of their service conditions.

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[38] ARPO 1899-1900, p.1. ARPO 1920-21. p.6.

[38a] Ibid.

[39] Report of the Postal Committee, 9/12 of 15th April 1859,p.3.

[40] Home, Post Office, Consultation, 9/12 of 15th April 1859, p.3.

[41] ibid, p.3.

[42] Financial, Expenditure, A.384-399 of April 1868. pp.1.2 and Financial, Separate Revenue, A.5/7 of October 1873, p.1.

[43] Pro. of the S.C., P.S.c. 1887, p.9.

[44] ARPO 1880-81. p.12, ARPO 1882-83, p.13. ARPO 1946-47. p.41. "While conveying a cash remittance of about 80,000 rupees from the Karachi General Post Office to the treasury on 10th May 1946 AD, Mr. Appa Arjun was fired up to and wounded by armed bandits who snatched away the remittance bag from him. Although wounded, he made two attempts to recover the bag from the bandits and did not give up until he was twice fired upon and was completely disabled. After prolonged treatment in hospital, he recovered from his wounds, although at one time his condition was reported to be precarious.

Trade Unionism and Postal Strikes

The postal employees gradually realised the need to get together in groups and represent their grievances to the employer which was an alien government. The unity had mostly forged in the ranks of delivery establishment. It was in Calcutta, for the first time in 1854 AD that delivery peons in a group had assembled and threatened a strike.[45] An organised strike of the entire establishment of delivery peons had taken place at Bombay on 5th October 1864 AD. They having served a notice on 1st October 1864 AD of their intention to stop work if their request for enhancement of pay was not granted. They struck the work on the 5th of the same month. They were dismissed on 7th of the month as they in a body declined to proceed with their work.[46]

The salary paid to the delivery peons' category was the lowest rate given at that time for common labourers. Resignations were more frequent in the postmen cadre and the service in the post office was unpopular on account of its severity.[47] To make the conditions of service more favourable, pensionary benefits were extended to the officials of the postmen category in 1884 AD.[48]

The postal employees from various sections formed into groups from time to time to represent the grievance of the staff and seek redressal from the Government. These small groups began to form associations of their own during the eighties and nineties of the nineteenth century.[49] The depletion of staff due to heavy toll in epidemics since late 1890 AD and the heavy demand of postal personnel for the field service during the first world war imposed on the staff extra burden of work. The high prices and low wages made the staff more grievous. An announcement of policy by the Department in 1906 AD, gave encouragement to the formation of "Organisations and Associations".

In 1906 AD, there was a general strike of the postmen of Bombay General post office and its town sub offices. The strike caused some dislocation in the delivery arrangements of the town for about a week.[50]

The rise in prices and rents, the consequent insufficiency of pay of the postmen and their insistence for increase of about 75 percent were the main causes of the postmen strike in 1917 AD.[51] The general labour unrest in Bombay and the influence of political leaders of the "Swaraj" (Home rule) movement influenced and served as an immediate cause of the said postmen strike. Out of 837 postmen, 813 from the Bombay General post office and its town sub offices struck work on 19th September 1917 AD. The strike continued for 19 days and ended on 8th October. The delivery work was managed to a certain amount of inconvenience to the public by utilising the clerical and telegraph staff and also by the help of un-official agency.

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[45] Financial, Expenditure, A.360/361 of November 1864, p.1.

[46] Financial, Expenditure, A.360/361 of November 1864, p.1. Majority of the Delivery peons in Bombay had hitherto received 10 rupees each per month, a few of them being entertained on the lower rate of 8 rupees per month. Their demand was 20 rupees and the Department offered 15 rupees.

[47] Ibid, p.2. A common labourer was paid 7 annas a day or 13 rupees a month.

[48] Finance and Commerce, Pension, A.183-184 of October 1884, pp.138, 139 and ARPO 1900-1901, p.23.

[49] Commerce & Industry P&TE File No.18 of Sept. 1920, p.3.

[50] ARPO 1905-06, p.1.

[51] Commerce and Industry, P&TE, File No.18 of March 1918, p.2 of note sheet. ARPO 1817-18, p.2. The Director General opined about the strike that the strikers were led astray by political agitators, whose object was only to harass the government and that it was probable that no strike would have taken place, as the question of improving the men's pay was under consideration at that time.

The discontentment among the staff started taking the shape of strikes. In 1919 AD, the postmen of Allahabad post office stopped work for 3 days. Their example was followed in May of the said year for a few days by the postmen of Calcutta who went on a demand for higher wages and certain privileges. There was a similar strike of short lived duration in February 1920 AD at Ahmedabad. The strike of postmen and menials at Rawalpindi started in June 1920 AD and lasted for 2 weeks.[52]

Finally the dissatisfaction of the staff which was prevalent in all parts of the country over the revised scale of pay sanctioned by the Government based on the Report of the Postal Committee of 1920 AD culminated in the five month long strike of the postmen of Bombay General Post Office and its town sub offices on 20th September 1920 AD.[53] In this strike unlike the previous ones, the menials and the telegraph peons made common cause with the postmen. The strikers numbering 2,158 out of a total of 2,458 men of the said three classes were influenced by political leaders of the Freedom Movement. The strikers were in all dismissed by the administration with a view to teach a lesson so that the postal staff in other parts of the country might not play in the hands of the politicians.

On the 6th December 1920 AD, the postmen and menials at Lahore struck work and the men at Rawalpindi, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Lyallpur, Amritsar and certain places in the Simla district followed suit. After a week, 490 officials resumed duty and those who failed to return to duty by that date were terminated from their services.[54]

The staff bore with patience the several measures imposed on account of economic depression of the 1930s AD. The continued negligence of service conditions resulted in the wide spread of discontentment. The power of endurance was nearing the breaking point. On 11th July 1946 AD the postmen and lower grade staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department went on strike. Their main demands were for increase in pay, pension and allowances etc. The incidence of strike, which at first was confined to the lower grade staff of the Department namely, postmen and packers etc. gradually spread to other categories of staff like clerks, telephone operators and non-gazetted officials of superior service who went on strike in sympathy with the others. The strikers resumed duty on 7th August 1946 AD. About one third or say 50,000 staff was on strike at any time during the period while the total membership of the union and total staff being 63,799 and 1,02,000 respectively.[55]

The Director General was authorised in 1920 AD to accord recognition of Postal Officers Association India, Calcutta and any other union or Association of employees which might accept the conditions that had been prescribed by the Government till they observed them.[56]

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52. ARPO 1919-20, p.5.
53. ARPO 1920-21, p.5 and Commerce and Industry, P&TE, File No.18 of September 1920, p.1.
54. ARPO 1920-21, p.5 and Bombay Chronicle of 7th December 1920, p.5. 55. ARPO 1935-36, p.33.
56. Commerce and Industry, B.34-35 of June, 1920, p.1.

In 1920 AD, the total number of unions and associations recongnised by the Government on all-India basis was twelve. By 1934-35 AD it rose to thirteen and the total membership comprised of about 44,000 or about 50 percent of the whole-time permanent employees of the Department.[57]

In 1946-47 AD, the number of All India Unions and Associations recognised by the Government, rose from 13 to 17 and included the "Federation of the P&T Unions" which was an amalgamation of some of the recognised unions.[58] Most of these unions had provincial, district and local branches. By 1954 AD, 4 more unions came to be recognised on provincial basis.

The multiplicity of trade unions of Posts and Telegraphs employees led rivalry among them. One demand of one trade union was contradicted by another demand of another trade union. Some sort of alignment was needed so that they could strengthen their unions, increase their membership and speak with a more united voice about their grievances or demands before the Authority. The necessity of realigning the existing unions on a rational basis was understood by all concerned and efforts were made in this direction in 1954 AD.[59] 84,525 Posts and Telegraphs employees took part in the strike of the central government employees which commenced on the mid-night of 11th July 1960 AD. The strike was called off on the 16th of July 1960 AD.[59a]

The National Federation of Posts and Telegraphs Employees (N.F.P.T.E) and its federated unions went on a token strike for one day on 19th September 1968 AD. As a result of this strike, the recognition of N.F.P.T.E and its federal unions was withdrawn for certain period on the ground that the unions/associations had participated in strike which was illegal. The employees had gone on strike in support of certain demands most important among these were (a) a need based minimum wage, and (b) merger of dearness allowance with basic pay. The areas much affected by the strike were Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.[59b]

Recognition was granted in 1978-79 AD to one more Federation, namely Bharatiya Post and Telegraphs Employees Federation along with its ten affiliates.[59c]

During the later half of the nineteenth century, the grievances of the postal employees led them to form into groups in their respective stations to represent their demands mainly concerning increases in pay. Starting from the early twentieth century, the postal employees came to be well organised.

Welfare Measures

Other welfare measures being unknown initially, the supply of uniform for the lower grade staff was considered as one of the primary measures taken in this direction.

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[57] ARPO 1935-36, p.33.

[58] ARPO 1945-46, p.7 ARPO 1946-47, p.7 and Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol.I, 1947 of 7 February 1947, to 18th February 1947, p.54.

[59] Parliamentary Debates Vol.II, No.1 of 23 June 1952, p.2377 and ARPO 1953-54, p.17.

59 (a). ARPO 1960-61, p.6.

Supply of Uniform

The custom of providing the persons engaged in the postal service with some distinctive outward indication of their employment, existed earlier. The supply of long wooden pole with iron point to the postal runner for keeping over ditches or dangerous places was considered as a symbol of his assignment in the post office department. During the year 1854 AD, the postal peons were dressed in uniform and furnished with badges and spearheads with bells.[60]

The primary reason for supply of badges and bells especially to those coming into contact with the public was, perhaps, to represent the sovereign power of the State by their outward appearance. The uniform worn by them also had the effect of preventing their loitering or neglecting their duty, besides ensuring safety of the correspondence and other mail matter dealt with in the post office which would otherwise be at the mercy of any un-recognisable cooly who might get into the office among the hundreds of employees.

From 1878 AD onwards, warm clothing came to be sanctioned when necessary for watchmen, guards and other menial servants.[61]

During the years in 1881 AD in Calcutta, in 1891 AD in Bombay and from 1892 AD onwards in large towns, a contingent charge expenditure was granted up to a limit of 12 rupees annually per individual for the supply of uniform and clothing to postmen, overseers, coachmen, letter box peons, packers and certain other inferior servants of the post office. The limit of 12 rupees was to cover all articles of clothing except belts and badges and also to cover water-proof and umbrellas except when such articles were specially sanctioned apart from uniform or clothing.[62]

From 1928-29 AD onwards, the scheme of supply of uniform to the above categories of officials was extended to all classes of post offices. Among other early welfare measures available for the staff can be said to be the formation of Post Office Guarantee Fund.[63]

Post Office Guarantee Fund and Compassionate Gratuities

In 1867 AD, every servant in the department below the grade of Postmaster General or Chief Inspector had to furnish security to the extent of one year's salary for the faithful discharge of his duties.[64]

The rates charged by the European Assurance Guarantee Society were excessive. The said Society charged a heavy assessment of 6 rupees per annum from peons and other servants attached to non-pensionable grades. In 1871 AD on collapse of the said European Assurance Society, the sum of eight annas each half-yearly was deducted from the salary of these category of personnel to wards un-returnable subscription for the Post Office Guarantee

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59 (b). ARPO 1968-69, pp.20,22,23. 59 (c). ARPO 1978-79, p.17. 60. ARPO 1855-56, p.25

61. Resolution No.1143 of 29th June 1878 quoted in Finance and Commerce, Salaries, A.53/54 of February 1894, p.1. 62. Finance and Commerce, Salaries, A.53/54 of February 1894.

63. ARPO 1928-29, p.2.

64. Financial, Expenditure, A.152-155 of October 1867, pp. 1,3. Security was to be furnished in any of the forms namely, Cash deposits, bonds, landed property, guarantee security, personal security and deposits of Government paper.

Two such homes were started at Pachmarhi and Mount Abu in the Central Circle, two at Jutogh and Dalhousie in the Punjab Circle, and one at Ranikhet in Uttar Pradesh Circle. As on 31st March 1994 AD, there were Holiday Homes at 19 locations run by the Department for its employees and their families.[79]

Assistance to Staff for House Building

In order to afford relief to the staff in respect of housing, three House Building Co-Operative Societies at Madras, Bombay and Calcutta were formed in 1949-50 AD.[80] Thereafter constitution of House Building Societies on a Co-operative basis amongst the staff was encouraged.[81]

Rest Houses

Rest Houses are provided by the department for R.M.S running staff to take rest in their out trips. Starting from 1957 AD onwards appreciable improvement was made in the existing amenities in the dormitories, R.M.S. Rest Houses and other Rest Houses, by increased supply of mosquito nets, furniture, light points, ceiling fans, lockers, cots, utensils, tea cups, tiffin carriers and meat safes etc. In bigger rest house, indoor games are also provided.[82]

Posts and Telegraphs Welfare Advisory Board

A Post and Telegraphs Welfare Advisory Board was setup by the Department at Headquarters during 1958 AD, with a view to make recommendations to government in regard to measures to be adopted for the furtherance of the welfare activities amongst the Posts and Telegraphs employees and establishing the welfare institutions for the staff such as recreation clubs, sports, cultural and Athletic Meet etc.[83]

Welfare Fund

In November, 1960 AD, a Welfare Fund was established with a view to meeting the expenditure on welfare activities which could not be financed from the budget allotment. The Fund is managed by a Central P & T Welfare Fund Committee under the Chairmanship of the Director General at the headquarters and Circle/Administrative Office Welfare Fund Committees.[85]

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79. ARPO 1950-51, p.9. ARPO 1993-94, p.47, ARPO 1990-91, p.43, 1992-93, p.44. Holiday Homes are stationed at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Guwahati and Kazirana (Assam), Rajgiri, Deogarh (Bihar), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Trivavdrum (Kerala), Matheren (Maharashtra), Shillong (Meghalaya), Gopalpur (Orissa), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Agartala (Tripura), Mussoorie (U.P.), Digha and Diamond Harbour (West Bengal). 80. ARPO 1949-50, p.7. 81. ARPO 1959-60, p.23. 82. ARPO 1957-58, p.21. ARPO 1959-60, p.22.

83. ARPO 1959-60, p.23. 84. ARPO 1959-60, P.24.

85. Mane, N.R. in an article "Staff Welfare well attended in P & T published in Dak Tar, November - December, 1968, p.38.

Financial Assistance from the Welfare Fund assists the P & T employees and their families, in the office, at their houses, in their health, children's education etc. The objects are so wide that there is practically no aspect of the employee's life which does not positively benefit from the facilities extended under the Welfare Fund. Efforts are made to encourage sports, arts and crafts and cultural activities, besides extending financial assistance in the form of scholarships or other awards to dependents, and medical assistance in hardships.

Additional posts of Welfare officers and welfare inspectors for the various circles were created during 1961-62 AD.[86]

During 1968-69 AD the Director (Welfare) of the Directorate and one welfare officer assisted by one welfare inspector were provided in each of the 15 circles and welfare offices were also attached to each of the Posts and Telegraphs Workshops at Alipure (Calcutta), Jabalpur, and Bombay. In Jammu and Kashmir circle only the welfare inspector was provided in 1968-69 AD.[87] Planned organisation of welfare activities and measures of practical benefit to the postal employees and their dependents was thus made.

The Department of Post India is one of the major Government Department and has provided immense job opportunity of different levels and categories. It also undertook several measures for the welfare of its employees. Apart from the wages, the service conditions and welfare measures play an important role in providing the employee the job satisfaction which is one of the main consideration in employment from an employee's point of view. The account of wages paid to the employees from time to time and the financial management of the India Post is quite interesting and the same is narrated in the ensuing chapter.

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86. ARPO 1961-62, p.26. 87. ARPO 1968-69, p.39.

Chapter Eight

POSTAL FINANCE

Though from the beginning the post office was not regarded as a source of revenue to yield a substantial surplus income, it had been considered as an executive department of the State bearing its own expenses.

Uniform Rate of Postage

As per estimation in 1850 AD the official correspondence was 4/5th of the total volume of traffic.[1]

"The cost of transit was found to be about 2/5th of the entire charge of the post office and the chargeable letters were only 1/5th of the whole of the weight. Thus the cost of conveying the chargeable letters was 1/5th of 2/5ths or two-twenty fifths, that was, about 8 percent of the whole charges of the Department.[2] This element of expenditure was not in proportion to the distance each letter was carried, but rather in the inverse proportion of the number of letters carried on any given route on the whole. Then since the cost of transit formed a small part of the whole charge, and small as it was, was not in proportion to distance, and since the other elements of cost were invariable in their nature and wholly independent of the distance, the fairest principle on which to regulate rates, would be to make that rate uniform", observed the Post Office Committee.[3]

Prior to 1854 AD the postal charges were determined on the basis of distances. It was, however, later discovered that there was no material difference in the expenses on establishment to the variation of the distances. It was, therefore, decided to introduce uniform postal charges irrespective of distances in 1854 AD.[4] The Court of Directors approved uniform rate of half anna on all letters not exceeding one quarter tola in weight without reference to distance and the same was adopted in 1854 AD.[5]

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1. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.19, 46. The total number of newspapers passed through the post office was something less than one-seventh of the number of chargeable letters.
2. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.18, 19.
3. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, p.27. Introduction of uniform rate of postage was no longer an experiment. It had been working with eminent success in the United Kingdom, United States of America, France, Spain and Russia. Moreover, the mails for the most part were carried in India by the cheap agency, foot runners. The other mode of conveyance was the mail cart, the fastest, most suitable, and with reference to speed, the least expensive kind of conveyance which the country afforded, and the one which the Government considered it convenient to adopt whenever the state of roads rendered it practicable to do so.
4. ARPO 1865-66, p.13. Since 1839 AD the uniform charge on a quarter tola letter conveyed less than 100 miles was 1/2 anna and, therefore, the alteration in the system in 1854 AD did not affect any letter conveyed for a distance less than 100 miles, in other words nearly half of the private correspondence of the country was unaffected by the change.
5. Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.24, 41, 42. The average actual cost of each chargeable letter which passed through the post offices was found to be a small fraction more than one anna in 1850 AD. The actual weight of 40,411 single letters posted at Calcutta General Post Office was found to be 7119 3/4

The introduction of uniform rate of 4 annas on the newspaper not exceeding 6 tolas in weight without reference to distance incurred a loss of nearly 50,000 rupees.[6] The charge on parcels, however, continued to be levied on the basis of distance and weight.[7]

Revenue and Expenditure of the Department

In 1853-54 AD the total income of the Department was Rs. 45.20 lakhs. This amount included the official postage amounting to 24.71 lakhs of rupees. The expenditure during the said year was 24.37 lakhs of rupees and the profit earned by the Department amounted to 28.22 lakhs of rupees. In 1855-56 AD, the first year of introduction of the uniform postage rates, the gross receipts amounted to 32.11 lakhs of rupees. The official postage came down to Rs. 16.20 lakhs and the total expenditure was Rs.29.44 lakhs leading to a profit of Rs.2.66 lakhs to the Department.[8] (See Table VIII.10 and Graph No 2 for the year-wise Financial results of the Post Office Department).

During 1855-56 AD to 1865-66 AD the average income increased from private correspondence was Rs. 2.3 lakhs per annum. In 1865-66 AD, the non-postal branches like Bullock train was managed with a profit of Rs. 2,158 while revenue earned on the Dak bearers and passenger service equalled the expenditure incurred on the service. The receipts from the Bullock train was not enhanced as a matter of policy of the Department as it carried the passengers also.[9]

In view of the changes introduced in the service correspondence the transmission of service articles decreased from 50.08 lakhs of rupees in 1865-66 AD to 26.56 lakhs of rupees in 1866-67 AD which was 47 percent.[10] From 1867 AD to 1869 AD the annual expenditure increased. It was due to revision of pay of the employees and on the establishment charges.[11]

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tolas or 29 1/2 percent below their chargeable minimum. The average weight of each letter was, therefore, little more than 2/3rds of a quarter of a tola (one quarter of a tola was equal to 18/175 of an ounce or 2.91 grams).

[6] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.46,48. The average expenses of each newspaper passing through the post office was more than 4 annas.

[7] Report of the Post Office Commissioners, 1852, pp.46,48. In the United Kingdom, newspapers were carried by the post, free of charge, but all newspapers whether sent by post or not, were subjected to a stamp-tax of one penny to two pence according to size.

[8] ARPO 1856-57/57-58, p.2.

[9] ARPO 1865-66, p.12.

[10] ARPO 1866-67, p.12. The official postage receipts decreased from 50.01 lakhs of rupees in 1865-66 AD to 26.56 lakhs of rupees in 1866-67 AD

[11] ARPO 1867-68 AD, p.20. Commerce and Industry, Post Office, A.15/16 of 11 September 1860, p.1. and ARPO 1868-69, p.14. Since 1860 AD the Railway companies under the orders of the Governor General in Council were bound under the strict terms of the contract to provide special carriage for the mail service and convey the Government mails and post bags, and the guards and other servants of the post office in charge thereof etc. free of charge. To pay for the cost of special and express trains for overland mails from Bombay, due to the discontinuance of the practice of delivering mails by steamer to Bombay, Madras and Calcutta and the arrears paid on account of haulage charges of the sorting carriages by railway for which previously no payment was made, the yearly expenditure increased.

Even with the lowering of the rate of postal charges on newspapers in 1871 AD the receipts of the Department had increased.[12] The exemption granted to the privileged Government offices for free postal service in 1871-72 AD resulted in a considerable decrease in the income of the Department.[13]

The reduction of registration fee in 1879 AD from four annas to two annas involved a loss of 3 1/2 lakhs of rupees of revenue to the Department.[14] But the introduction of Value Payable and Insurance in 1877-78 AD and postcard and the Money Order in 1879 AD and 1880 AD respectively improved the revenue of the Department. During 1878-79 AD, the Value Payable and Insurance earned a revenue of 0.04 lakhs and 1.24 lakhs of rupees respectively. The money order fetched a commission of 5.35 lakhs of rupees in 1880-81 AD.[15]

The extension of railway caused a loss of revenue to the Postal Department as the passengers preferred to travel and send goods through railway instead of Bullock Cart Train.[16] The loss was however, marginal as 97 percent of the total expenditure was met by the Department through its other measure excluding official postage in 1880-81 AD.[17] The net profit of the Department exclusive of revenue on account of official postage was 1.04 lakhs of rupees in 1887-88 AD.[20] The revenue of the Department was mainly derived from the sale proceeds of postage stamps, and money order commission with the extension of education and material progress, people gradually started using these facilities leading to substantial increase in the income of the Department.[21]

On 1st April 1914 AD, the Posts and Telegraphs Departments were amalgamated and formed as Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. This led to considerable economy in expenditure of the Department.[22] Prior to the amalgamation, the Postal Department had its separate accounts. The gross receipts of the Department formed part of the revenues of the Government of India and no separate head of income and expenditure was allotted to the Department. In the general scheme of Government accounts and all income and expenditure were included under the major head already provided. This arrangements continued up to 1921 AD.

Due to interruption in transmission of correspondence during outbreak of World War I, there was a decline in net surplus in the income of the Department.[25] This period also witnessed heavy withdrawals from the Savings Bank Accounts. It was to the tune of 20.43 lakhs against the total deposits of 12.05 lakhs in 1914-15 AD. The withdrawals, however, gradually decreased.[26]

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12. ARPO 1871-72, p.5 and 1881-82, p.21. 13. ARPO 1871-72, pp.22, 23 and ARPO 1872-73, pp.11, 12.
14. Finance, Separate Revenue, No.93-95 of March 1878, p.1. and ARPO 1879-80, p.4. The British Post Office had reduced its registration free from 4 pence (equivalent to 2.66 annas) to 2 pence (equivalent to 1.33 annas) in 1878 AD. 15. Financial, Separate Revenue, A. 333-335 of June 1879, p.1. and ARPO 1880-81, pp.12, 14.
16. ARPO 1884-85, p.29. 17. ARPO 1884-85, p.29. 18. ARPO 1900-01, p.37. 19. ARPO 1882-83, p.24.
20. ARPO 1886-87, pp.37, 38, 39. The opening of new offices besides other expenditure, involved the cost of equipping the offices, with all the miscellaneous paraphernalia of sign-board, letter box, letter box board, scales, a safe, table, stool, locks, bags and a number of other articles. When a small office was opened in charge of an extraneous agent, the furniture given costed 8 to 10 rupees and consisted of a box, a seal, a stamp and a few printed forms initially.
21. ARPO 1900-1901, p.37. 22. ARPO 1914-15, p.12. 24. Report of the P&T Accounts Enquiry Committee, 1931, p.7. 25. ARPO 1910-11, p.25 and ARPO 1914-15, p.12. 26. ARPO 1915-16, p.2.

The Britishers utilised the post office by floating a loan and a sum of nearly 50 lakhs of rupees was subscribed through the post office towards the 4 percent loan in 1915-16 AD.[27] Since 1915-16 AD with the increased activity first due to the war itself and then to the boon in trade that followed, immediately after, postal business resumed its upward movement and continued to increase with surplus revenue to profit till 1919-20 AD.[28]

During the year 1920-21 AD the accounts of the Department closed with a net deficit of 45.99 lakhs of rupees. The deficit was due to the increase in salaries and payment of arrears of pay, accrued since December 1919 AD to the staff.[29] The increase in prices had led to an enormous increase in the expenditure of the Department. In 1921-22 AD, to meet the gap between the expenditure and revenue, the postal tariff was raised. The important change was the doubling of the initial rate for inland letters from 1/2 an anna to 1 anna and the raising of the rate for post cards from three pies to six pies. The rates for book packets, the registered newspapers and scale of commission on Money Orders were also raised.[30]

Certain changes in the system of accounts of the Department were made with the passing of the Government of India Act, 1919 AD. In 1921-22 AD two capital heads were created one for recording capital outlay and the other for the working expenses of the Department. In 1923-24 AD, lump sum contributions towards pension payment were debited to the Department for the first time. The credits for work done by the Departments, like those in connection with the Savings Bank and Cash Certificates etc. were included in the Departmental accounts for the first time in 1924-25 AD.[31]

The enhancement of the postal tariff in 1922 AD, combined with great depression resulted in the fall of postal traffic although not in revenue. On the other side, the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee, 1922 AD were utilised to keep down expenditure for a few years.[32] Though the enhanced tariff led to a diminution in the postal business in 1922-23 AD the postal traffic, after the immediate setback, continued to increase from year to year.

The Department looked upon the post office as public utility service and considered it as a revenue earning Department to meet its own expenses. The Department aimed at providing facilities to the general tax-payer without being much a burden on him.

In 1925 AD, the accounts of the Department were reconstituted in accordance with the principles of commercial book-keeping. This was done with a view to ascertaining readily therefrom the extent to which the Department was imposing burden on the general tax-payer or bringing in revenue to the ex-chequer and whether the rates charged to the public for various postal services were inadequate or excessive.[34]

In 1924-25 AD, the postal branch earned a profit of 13.13 lakhs of rupees.[35] The reconstituted accounts of the Department in 1925-26 AD and 1926-27 AD showed a profit of Rs.48.89 lakhs and Rs.21.62 lakhs respectively.[36]

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[27] ARPO 1915-16, p.2.
[28] ARPO 1920-21, p.78.
[29] ARPO 1920-21, p.37.
[30] ARPO 1921-22, p.1.
[31] Report of the P&T Accounts Enquiry Committee, 1931, p.8.
[32] Report of the P&T Accounts Enquiry Committee, 1931, p.8.
[33] Ibid p.7.
[34] Report of Public Accounts Committee, 1924-25, Appendix XV, p.1. and ARPO 1925-26, pp.1,2.
[35] ARPO 1924-25, pp.66, 67.
[36] ARPO 1925-26, p.28 and 1931-32, p.5.

In 1927-28 AD, as a result of the improvements in the scales of pay and other conditions of service, expenditure overtook receipts and during next six years also the post office worked at a loss.[37]

In the wake of fall in revenue in the years 1930-31 AD and 1931-32 AD due to the economic depression, the Department adopted several measures to improve its financial position. On the one hand, the scale of charges for various postal services was increased, on the other hand, Government imposed an emergency deduction from the pay of the employees and the vigorous economy and retrenchment measures were taken.[38]

Up to 1934-35 AD, the Department was making lump sum contributions to General revenues to cover its pensionary liability towards its employees. This arrangement was discontinued in 1935 AD and the actual amount of pension paid to its employees was met by the Department from that date.[39]

In 1934-35 AD, the post office after a six years spell of running under loss, earned profits to the tune of 24.34 lakhs of rupees. The profits of the postal sector continued to rise till 1945-46 AD and it was 4.84 crores of rupees in the said year. Increase in traffic of all classes of postal articles contributed for these profits.[40] Thereafter there was sharp decrease in the profits and the Department closed its accounts with a loss of about 1.73 crores in 1948-49 AD.[41] After a continuous spell of five years of closing of its accounts with loss, the post office again registered a profit of 7.6 lakhs of rupees in 1953-54 AD.[42] The financial years 1955-56 AD, 1956-57 AD, 1958-59 AD, 1959-1960 AD, and 1961-62 to 1964-65 AD also saw the Department earning some profits. Thereafter with the sole exception of 1978-79 AD when there was a small surplus of Rs.2.26 crores its accounts were closed with a loss.(Vide Table VIII.10).

Postal Tariff rates and General Price Index

The minimum rates of letter postage prescribed constituted to be major source of revenue of the Department. The introduction of the postcards, became popular among the masses and a major source of revenue.

The initial letter postage rate fixed in 1854 AD continued inspite of changes in the initial limit of weight in the subsequent years.[43] The initial weight allowed from time to time was considered sufficient for the mass of native correspondence and a cheap letter postage had a special justification in the country. Any change in the initial weight allowed to be sent for the initial rate of postage meant a very material sacrifice of revenue.[44] In fixing the subsequent limits of weight one unit of weight was adopted and this was constantly borne in mind while fixing a new scale of letter postage for the public were likely to evade the higher postage by sending two letters of lesser weight.[45]

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37. ARPO 1931-32, p.5.
38. ARPO 1934-35, p.3.
39. Combined Finance and Revenue Accounts etc. for the year 1947-48 to 1954-55, pp.1,4.
40. ARPO 1945-46, p.9.
41. ARPO 1948-49, p.11.
42. ARPO 1953-54, p.64.
43. ARPO 1873-74, p.2. and ARPO 1905-06, p.1. Initial limits of weight was enhanced from 1/4 tola to 1/2 tola and 1 tola in 1869 AD and 1905 AD respectively.
44. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, Post Office, A.1171 to 1195 of September 1898, KWs, p.10.
45. Ibid p.10.

The financial results of 1920-21 AD showing a deficit of 45.99 lakhs of rupees made it difficult for the post office to carry on with the initial rate of half-anna for letters weighing up to one tola. The initial rate of letter postage was altered to 1/2 tola in 1921 AD.[46] Additional revenue on this account was disappointing as an invariable rule that however much the initial letter weight was reduced the public would accommodate to it.[47]

An actual check of inland private letters handled in one day at 6 principal stations in 1921 AD had indicated that ninety percent of letters posted weighed up to 2 1/2 tolas only and letters weighing up to 1 tola alone constituted 87.5 percent of total letters. Hence in 1922 AD the initial rate of the letter postage was increased. The rate of postage on postcard was also enhanced from 3 pies to 6 pies in 1922 AD expecting that a certain amount of traffic which was carried by letter mail might come down to the postcards.[48] The financial results of 1922-23 AD closed with a profit of 26.67 lakhs of rupees.[49] The financial results of the year were the proof of the wisdom of this measure.

It was after a period of nearly 70 years i.e., in 1922 AD as a result of the economic upheaval due to the Great War, the high prices, the increase in the cost of handling the mails and the increase in the pay of the staff, that the initial rate of letter postage was doubled i.e., it was enhanced form 1/2 anna for 1/2 tola to one anna for 2 1/2 tolas vide Table VIII.1. The minimum rates of inland letter postage and the ratio of their rise to the rise of General Price Index across the fourteen decades is indicated in Table VIII.1.[50]

In the wake of a fall in revenue in 1930-31 AD due to the economic depression, again in 1931 AD, the initial rate for letter postage was increased from 1 anna to 1 1/4 anna and the rate of postcard was increased from 6 pies to 9 pies vide Table VIII.2.[51] The rate of postage levied on inland postcards and the rise of inland postcard postage to the rise of General Price Index indicated in Table VIII.2.[52]

The initial rate of letter postage was reduced from 1 1/4 anna to 1 anna with the simultaneous reduction in the initial weight from 2 1/2 tolas to 1/2 tola in 1934 AD.[54] With the improvement in the financial results in 1934-35 AD the initial weight was altered to 1 tola in 1936 AD and the initial rate was allowed to remain the same. Thereafter the initial weight remained constant and the initial rate was increased from 1 anna to 1 1/4 anna in 1940 AD and to 1 1/2 annas in 1942 AD.[55]

The economic depression from 1930-31 AD and the continuous loss sustained by the Department till 1933-34 AD were the reasons for keeping the rate of the letter postage high. Though the rate was reduced in 1934-35 AD the initial letter postage cost more when compared to rise in the General Price Index. Inspite of the rise in the General Price Index in 1943 AD due to the outbreak of the World War, the initial letter postage was not increased correspondingly and thereafter it continued to be moderate vide table No. VIII.1.

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[46] ARPO 1921-22,m p.1. [47] Ibid. p.2.
[48] Industry and Labour, Post Office, File No.13. PO of 1929 Sr.No.10, p.8. of the note.
[49] ARPO 1921-22, p.3. Also see Appendix II. [50] L'Union Postale, 1931, p.313, and ARPO 1921-22, p.1.
[51] Economic and Political Weekly, Volume IV, No.4 of 25th January 1969, pp. 252-255. Minimum rates of letter postage are based on the annual reports of the Department. [52] ARPO 1931-32, p.10. [53] Based on the Annual Reports of the corresponding years. [54] ARPO 1934-35, p.2.
[55] ARPO 1940-41, p.2., ARPO 1942-43, p.16 and ARPO 1948-49, p.17.

The rate of initial letter postage was all time high in 1933 AD which was reduced in the following year. The ratio of the rate of postcard to General Price Index was all time high in 1931 AD and its price favourably compared with the General Price Index in 1946 AD on reduction in its rate during the said year. [55a] During the post independence era their rates remained much low, despite extensive expansion activities in the rural areas which were backed by the increased traffic.(Vide Table VII.1). The increase in General Price Index were not taken into consideration while fixing Inland letter postage rates and this has mainly caused loss in revenue earned for the Department.

The rate of postage on postcard was reasonably maintained throughout when compared with the rise in General Price Index till 1978 AD. It is being sold in 1994 AD at 20% of its initial rate fixed in 1879 AD as compared to the rise in General Price Index (Vide Table VIII.2). The rate of postage levied on Inland letter card however, fluctuated of its initial rate of 1950 AD between 75% and 48% of its initial rate of 1950 AD between 1968 AD to 1994 AD. (Vide Table VIII. 3).

The rates of minimum postage on the indigenous newspapers imposed in 1854 AD were almost prohibitive. The lowered rates of minimum postage on newspapers in 1861 AD also cost the public more and compared 200 percent to the rate of General Price Index. Thereafter the ratio of the minimum rate on this account continued to be lower than the rate of growth of the General Price Index and was the cheapest in 1954 AD as ratio of its rate to the General Price Index and stood lowered at 20 percent (vide Table No. VIII.4).[56] Similarly the ratio of the minimum rates of postage on book-post etc. was higher till 1877 AD the days when the means of transportation continued to be difficult. Since 1878 AD when the rates were lowered the ratio of growth of the minimum rates on this service continued to remain lower than the growth rate of the General Price Index and is worked out at Table No. VIII.5.[57]

The rate of parcel post increased to all time high in 1877 AD. (vide Table No. VIII.6). The consideration in fixing the rates of this service had always been that it was used principally for the transmission of goods of commercial character than that of the book-post. Added to that the cost of extra accommodation made available by the Railways to the post office for conveyance of these articles was kept in mind as the railways were to be reimbursed.[58]

During 1880 AD the minimum rate of parcel postage was reduced from 8 annas to 4 annas by altering the initial weight from 40 tolas to 20 tolas.[59] With the introduction of the unregistered parcel post in 1895 AD the initial postage charges on this were lowered and during the said year the ratio of the initial charges on this account stood lowered at 92 percent of the rise of the General Price Index. With fluctuations in the ratio in between the rate of growth of minimum charges on this service were similar to that of the growth of the General Price Index.[60]

The ratio of the registration fee was the highest till 1880 AD when compared to the growth of the General Price Index (Vide Table No. VIII.7).[61] The fee was lowered in 1881 AD and though it was raised in the subsequent years, its ratio compared to the growth of General Price Index continued.

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55 (a). ARPO 1946-47, p.3. The rate of postage on postcards which had been a pies since 15th December 1931 AD was reduced with effect from 1st July, 1946 AD. 56. Based on the Annual Reports of the corresponding years.

57. ibid. 58. Financial Department, A. 23/26 of August 1877, p.2.

The Insurance business of the post office had commanded a vide popularity. Under the said service, the Government guaranteed to the sender the safe transit of valuables and gave compensation to him, within the insured value, for any actual loss occurring in transit from any cause whatsoever, except in certain prescribed cases. The ratio of inland insurance fee was all time high in 1942 AD. The rate of its increase was also more to the ratio of the growth of General Price Index in the said year (vide Table No. VIII.8)[62]. The risk covered in affording the service and special precautions taken in transmission were kept in view while fixing the fee to be charged for this service.

Besides, the revenue collected from letters, postcards, book packets, parcels, registration fee and insurance fee etc., which formed major portion of the receipts of the Department, the other important sources of revenue were commission on Money Orders and Indian Postal Orders. The ratio of commission on Money Orders to the General Price Index is indicated in Table No. VIII.9.[63] The rate of commission was the highest on introduction of the facility in 1880 AD, when it was the lowest in 1920 AD having come down to 37 percent.[63a] The rate was altered in 1921 AD and was, however, cheaper thereafter. It was cheapest in 1988 AD.

In 1884-85 AD, an amount of 4 annas was allowed to the post office for every transaction in the Savings Bank Account. The cost of postcard went down from 5.8 pies in 1932 AD to 5.2 pies in 1938 AD as against its charges of 9 pies. The estimated cost of production and handling of the postcard having been increased, it worked at a loss since then.[64] The envelope was the only thing that brought income. In the other items like money orders etc., the Department was losing money. In 1948-49 AD it spent 10 pies per letter which fetched 18 pies. On the unpaid letter 14 pies were spent and 36 pies were earned.[65] On the Registration of articles 8 annas and 7 pies were spent as against only 4 1/2 annas that were charged in 1948-49 AD.[66]

The comparative study of the ratio of the rate of increase in the General Price Index and the rate of increase of charges on various postal functions indicate that the minimum postage charges on parcels and insurance fee were to some extent proportionate to the rise of General Price Index. The Department does not appear to have taken into consideration the rise in the General Price Index while fixing the minimum postage rates on newspapers, book, pattern and sample packets, registration fee and commission on money orders. Inland letter card and minimum rates of Inland letter postage after independence and especially postcard in recent times i.e. around 1994 AD. Minimum postage rates and commission etc., on these classes of articles were lower as compared to the rise in the General Price Index.

In 1992-93 AD, the cost on services like postcard, Inland letter card, letter and parcel was Rs.1.54, Rs.1.57, Rs.1.78 and Rs.22.11 while revenue realised on these items was Rs.0.15,

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59. ARPO 1880-81, p.4.
60. Based on Annual Reports of the corresponding years.
61. Based on Annual Reports of the corresponding years.
62. Based on Annual Reports of the corresponding years.
63. Based on Annual Reports of the Department for the corresponding years.
63a. ARPO 1884-85, p.29.
64. Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative) proceedings of 19th March, 1949, p.1598. The cost of production and handling of the postcard was excluding the cost of conveyance by air and other additional facilities provided for mail carried by air, such as special conveyance to and from aerodromes, additional arrangements for clearance and sorting etc. Parliament Debates of 2nd February 1950, p.42 also refers.
65. ibid, p.1596.
66. ibid, p.1596.

Rs.0.75, Rs.1.85 and Rs.17.02 respectively. On items such as Money order, Registration fee and Insurance fee the cost was Rs.14.09, Rs.10.36 and Rs.13.76 and the revenue collected was Rs.10.97, Rs.6.00 and Rs.11.01 respectively. In the same year the book post service was also provided on loss. While the cost of book, pattern and sample packets was Rs.2.28 revenue earned was Rs.1.79 In respect of printed books and others while the cost was Rs.2.94 and Rs.3.27, the revenue earned was Rs.1.52 and Rs.1.29 respectively.[66a] Services like post card. inland letter-card, parcel and book packets, are traditionally losing services in terms of the revenue they bring in. Other services like money orders, registration fee and insurance fee also do not bring in enough revenue to cover the cost.

In the early stage of its development the postal service was conceived as a "public utility" which met all expenditure from its own receipts. After independence, there was a change in character of the service with the social aspect receiving considerable emphasis. In fact the country's postal service has come to be viewed essentially as a social service. So much so, to the common man the post office is synonymous with (a) a presence of the government and (b) the care and concern that the government has for him consequently, strict commercial viability norms have not been followed and the system is now operating on a deficit.

The Department did not charge any thing from the Treasuries for the sale of Revenue and Health Seals through the post office. Likewise the treasuries also did not charge for the postal stamps and stationery kept with them. It was on the basis of reciprocacy. From 1951 AD onwards, the Department charged 7 annas per transaction on issue, discharge or transfer of Cash and National Savings Certificates, while two rupees were charged for the issue or renewal of a radio licence.[67]

The sale of postage stamps had been the primary and major source of income of the Department. The postage revenue was to the tune of 2278 lakhs of rupees or 85.5 percent and 878.38 crores of rupees or 81.79 percent of the total receipts of the post office branch in 1953-54 AD and 1992-93 AD respectively. The other important source of income viz., the Money Order and Indian Postal Orders contributed to 326 lakhs of rupees or 12.3 percent and 135.68 crores of rupees or 12.6 percent in 1953-54 AD and 1992-93 AD respectively. Of the share of its income and 1.8 percent or 49 lakhs of rupees comprised of others, in 1953-54 AD and 5.6 percent or 59.84 crores of rupees in 1992-93 AD respectively. (see Graph No. 4).

Out of 2,645 lakhs of rupees of expenditure during 1953-54 AD, and 1649.18 crores of rupees in 1992-93 AD, major items comprised of the postal expenses and formed the payment to staff etc. and amounted to 2538 lakhs of rupees or 81.61 percent of the total expenditure in 1953-54 AD and 1246.83 crores of rupees or 75.60 percent in 1992-93 AD. The cost of stamps, postcards and stationery printing and the pensionary charges amounted to 7.4 percent and 4.9 percent respectively in 1953-54 AD. While in 1992-93 AD the cost of stamps and postage etc.. and stationery and printing etc.. comprised of 64.27 crores of rupees or 4.1 percent and pensionary charges amounted to 203.64 crores of rupees or 13.1 percent of the total expenditure.[68] (See Graph No.5).

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66 (a). ARPO 1993-94, p.44.   67. Parliamentary Debates of 26th March 1954, p.1447.

68. ARPO 1953-54, pp.70, 71 and Appendix 5 to the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Manual, 1955, pp.4, 5, 9, 23, 25, 26, 44, to 47, 60, 67, 63-65, and 72-83.

The sale of postage stamps and the expenses of establishment charges constituted major source of income and main items of expenditure respectively. A brief history of the postage stamps issued during fourteen decades has been narrated in Chapter XI and the account of pay and allowances paid to the staff from time to time is discussed hereafter.

Pay and allowances of the Staff

The important aspect of the expenditure of the department of posts pertains to the payment of pay and allowances of its staff. The gradual penetration of the Imperial Post into the interiors the undertaking of numerous functions and thereby increase in work and responsibilities necessitated modification of postal establishments and revisions in the grades, cadres and pay structure.

The superior services were manned almost exclusively by Europeans most of whom belonged to what was known as the "covenanted service" and were paid with high scales of salaries. The territorial limits of the jurisdiction of the several Postmasters General underwent some change consequent on the taking over of the management of the District Post and the fifth postal circle was formed in the central provinces under the control of Chief Inspector in 1866-67 AD.[69] In 1867-68 AD two grades of Postmaster General viz., the higher with a salary of Rs.1750 per month rising by annual increments of Rs.50 to Rs.2000 per month and lower with a salary of Rs.1500 per month rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to 1750 per month were created and the two officers of the higher grade were usually attached to the Bengal and Bombay circles. The salaries of the Chief Inspector of Post Offices in the Central Provinces, as well as of the Presidency Postmasters of Calcutta and Bombay were changed from a fixed rate of Rs.700 per month to a sliding scale, commencing with Rs.600 per month, and rising by annual increments of Rs. 50 to Rs. 1000 per month.[70]

The extension of postal operations necessitated revision of the former supervisory establishments. Ten additional posts of Inspecting Postmasters and Superintendents of Mail Carts (later renamed as Superintendent of Post Offices) were created and the fixed rate of salaries of 7 grades of these officers viz., Rs.500, Rs.400, Rs.350, Rs.300, Rs.250, Rs.200 and Rs.100 per month were changed in 1867-68 AD to three grades of Rs. 300-40-400, Rs.150-30-300 and the lowest or probationary grade carrying a fixed salary of Rs.150 per month.[71]

The Sub Inspectors formerly in service of the local governments, for supervision of the District Posts were merged in the cadres of the Imperial Post and were paid salary of Rs.50 raising by yearly increments of Rs.5 to Rs.75 per month and in North Western Provinces Circle where were paid a fixed salary of Rs.60 per month. A travelling allowance of Rs. 2 per diem while on the march was also authorised.[72] The postmaster in charge of disbursing offices were paid Rs. 75 a month rising by annual increment of Rs.4 a month to Rs.95.[73]

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[69] ARPO 1866-67, p.1.

[70] ARPO 1867-68, p.3.

[71] Finance and Expenditure, Post Office, A. 229-234 of October, 1867, p.1. and ARPO 1867-68, p.3.

[72] ARPO 1867-68, p.4.

[73] Indian Post Office Manual of February 1873, pp.120-122.

[74] Financial, Expenditure, A. 384-399 of April 1868, p.1. and A. 360/61 of November 1864, pp.1,2,3. The rates were applicable since 1854 AD.

In 1868 AD the deputy postmaster and clerks were also like wise graded with salaries rising by length of service between fixed limits.

The pay of the peons varied from Rs. 5 and 6 in Bengal and in the North Western Provinces to Rs. 7 and 10 in some parts of Bombay and Madras. The average rate throughout India excluding the Presidency towns and British Burma, was Rs. 5-12 per month. A majority, however, received Rs.5 and 6 a month only. No provision was made for an increase of pay for long service, and peons were not entitled to pension.[74]

In 1868 AD, the minimum salary of delivery peons throughout India excepting the Presidency towns and a few other places where special rates prevailed, was fixed at Rs.6-8 per month rising by annual increments in 5 years to Rs.9 with a higher grade as salaries rising from a minimum of Rs.9 to a maximum of Rs.12.[75]

Since 1879 AD the post office had undertaken a number of new schemes, each one of which in its own degrees, had added to the responsibilities of all classes of employees and this had been a further tax on their intelligence. Service in the post office was unpopular on account of its severity and the consequence was that resignations were more frequent than they would have been under more favourable conditions of service.[76] The adoption of the system of payment of money orders by postmen necessitated recruitment of people possessed of intelligence and education for surpassing what was required from ordinary peons. The pay of the postmen cadre was increased and pensionary benefits were extended to this cadre in 1885 AD.[77]

In view of the growth of work and monetary responsibilities, increase in pay was sanctioned from time to time, in every province, in the case of numerous head postmasters, sub postmasters, branch postmasters, postmen, village postmen and several thousands of runners, mail peons, letter box peons and other inferior servants.[78]

In 1908 AD, out of 11,256 extra departmental branch postmasters, 4769 or 42.4 percent were paid allowances of less than Rs.5 and 376 men were getting a postal allowance of Rs.10 or more.[79]

Up to 1914 AD the year of out break of the Great War, for a long series of years conditions remained all but undisturbed, increase of pay were sanctioned occasionally in places in which they were found to be necessary, but such sanctions were few and unimportant and each individual sanction affected a comparatively small member of staff.[80] Such individual sanctions continued to be accorded in recognition of the increase in work and responsibility and in the cost of living. Although the aggregate increase sanctioned enhancing the pay between 1914 AD to 1920 AD was about 43 percent, it could not mitigate the hardships caused by the phenomenal increase in the cost of living.[81]

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75. ibid.

76. Finance & Commerce, Pensions A.183 & 184 of October, 1884, p.138.

77. ibid p.23.

78. ARPO 1899-1900, p.1., ARPO 1905-07, p.3. and ARPO 1911-12, p.3.

79. Commerce and Industry, P&T E, File No.22 of October 1817, p.3. of Note sheet.

80. ARPO 1899-1900, p.1., ARPO 1905-06, p.3., ARPO 1911-12, p.3 and ARPO 1915-16, p.4.

81. Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, pp.1, 58., ARPO 1917-18, p.3. A special war allowance on a 5% basis was sanctioned in 1917 AD to meet the abnormal rise in prices.

The Postal Committee presided over by Mr. H.N. Herseltine appointed in 1920 AD enquired into the conditions of the non-gazetted supervisory, clerical, sorting, delivery and menial establishments employed in the postal branch. Based on the recommendations of the committee, the revision of pay was sanctioned with retrospective effect from 1st December 1919 AD. This resulted in abolition of the graded system and its replacement by time scales of pay and the staff was assured of regular increments. For supervisory establishments, the number of selection grade appointments was increased from 557 to 1088. The scales of pay sanctioned for menials varied from locality to locality and according to the varying nature of responsibilities.[82] The pay of clerks was based generally on the recognition that the clerks in the post offices perform duties of a special kind.[83] House rent allowance and local allowances were proposed for certain localities, the existing allowances of the said type remained unaffected except to the extent superseded by the new allowances.[84] Payment of the war and grain compensation allowances was discontinued and consolidated revised rates were proposed.[85]

All the postmen and inferior servants that is packers, messengers, letter box peons etc., of the Department were not placed on a scale of pay common to all classes as that was to be done by raising pay all around to the level of circle in which at that moment it was the highest of levelling down was considered as out of question.

For inferior servants, Rs.15 was granted as minimum rising by an increment of Re.1 after every period of 5 years to a maximum of Rs.20. The postmen in all parts of the country were placed in the more important offices in which the work was more difficult and responsible not less than Rs.18 a month rising by an increment of Re.1 after every period of 4 years to a maximum of Rs.24.[86]

For holding the charge of the senior appointments in post offices which were filled by men of the postmen class, namely overseer postmen, sorting or reader postmen and head postmen, a special duty allowance of Rs.10, 7 1/2 and 5 respectively was paid to the postmen selected for and actually employed in these duties.[87] Cash and Mail overseers who were on rates of pay and allowances ranging from Rs. 18 to 55 were placed in 1920 AD on two scales of pay, namely on Rs.22 rising by an annual increment of Rs. 1 to 30 and on Rs.32 rising by an annual increment of Rs. 1 to 40.[88]

Apart from the financial reasons partly also to induce men of a better type to seek employment as postmen and cash and mail overseers, a steady effort was made by the Department to place branch offices in charge of men of the postmen class with the result that by 1920 AD almost all branch postmasters were ex-postmen. The departmental branch postmasters were placed in 1920 AD on a scale of Rs.24-1-32.[89]

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[82] Public Works Department, P&T E, A. 12.15 of September 1921, p.7. and Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.112. Head Postmasters and Sub Postmasters (High Selection Grade) were placed on the pay scale of 250-20-350 rupees and the Sub Postmasters (Lower Selection grade) were given the scale of 160-250 rupees in 1919 AD.

[83] ibid p.7.

[84] ibid p.7. Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, p.71 and ARPO 1919-20 p.3. House rent allowance was allowed at Calcutta, Alipore and Howrah.

[85] Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, p.7.

[86] ibid, pp 7,9.

[87] ibid, p.23.

[88] ibid, p.24.

[89] Report of the Postal Committee, p.24 and Public Works Department, P&T E, A. 1-19 of September 1921, p.2.

The clerical service in the post office was unpopular. Conditions of work in the post office, long and irregular hours, night work, practically no holidays and added to that a long term of probation on little or no pay had made the service unattractive. To allay the agitation prevailing in the cadre a minimum of time scale of pay varying from Rs. 35 for the mofussil areas generally to Rs.50 for Bombay, Rangoon, Aden and Persian Gulf and the maximum between Rs.120 to Rs.140 was awarded. Approximately 11,000 out of 17,000 clerks were graded in the class which began on Rs.35 and ended at Rs.120.[90] The pay of the clerks and sorters of the Railway Mail Service was also substituted for the graded system by the time scale granted to the clerks of the post office.[91] The clerks of the Dead letter offices were granted lesser maximum scale of pay than those of the clerks in Head Post Offices to which they were attached.[92]

Certain appointments were considered by the postal committee as supervisory or otherwise important and were graded above the time-scale clerical cadre. They were the posts of all Head Postmasters, Deputy and Assistant Postmasters, Head clerks of Branches and Senior Accountants in Presidency offices and Sub Postmasters in charge of offices in which five or more clerks were employed and in which monetary transactions were exceptionally heavy. The three grades on Rs.200-300, Rs.150-200 and Rs.100-150 were replaced on recommendations of the above committee by the three grades on Rs.250-20-350, Rs.175-10-225 and Rs.145-5-170 respectively.[93] The latter two scales were made applicable in the Railway Mail Service wing of the Department to the Accountants and Head Clerks in Railway Mail Service Superintendent's office. Head Clerks important Record Offices, Head Sorters of Stationary Mail Offices with 7 or more sorters, and head sorters of travelling sets consisting of 6 or more sorters.[94]

The supervisory establishment consisting of the Inspectors and Head Clerks of office of Superintendent of Post Offices which were divided into 4 grades viz., on Rs.60, Rs.80, Rs.100 and Rs.110-150 were placed on a time scale of Rs.100-5-175 and the rate of daily allowance for an Inspector was increased from Rs.2 to Rs.3.[95] The pay scales of the Superintendents of Post Offices was revised to Rs.250-25-300-20-700 with a pay of Rs.200 for probationary superintendents with effect from 1919 AD. In the Railway Mail Service, the post of Assistant Superintendent was abolished and a new class of Inspectors corresponding in pay and status of the post offices was created with the designation Inspectors Railway Mail Service on Rs.100-5-175. The Postmasters General were transferred from a graded to a time scale rising from Rs.1750 to 2250 with a selection post on Rs.2500.[97]

A review undertaken in 1920 AD, indicated that the extra departmental branch postmasters were paid postal allowances ranging from Rs.1 to Rs.30. In June 1921 AD the minimum allowance of the extra departmental branch postmaster was revised to Rs.6.[98]

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[90] Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, p.62 and Public Works, P&T, A. 18-19 of September 1921, p.1.

[91] Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, pp, 79,100.

[92] ibid p.107.

[93] ibid, pp. 67, 68 and Public Works, P&T E, A. 18-19 of September 1921, p.1.

[94] Report of the Postal Committee, 1920, p.81.

[95] Public Works, P&T E, A. 19 of September 1921, p.2.

[96] Commerce, P&T E, F.No. 3 to 8 of July 1920, p.136.

[97] ARPO 1921-22, p.8.

[98] Commerce and Industry, Memo No.1244-s of 20th June 1921 cited in the Report of the Committee on E.D. System, 1958, p.72.

In 1926 AD, house rent allowance was granted to postmen and inferior servants except runners and messengers at a large number of places and the existing allowances at other places were increased.[99] In the pay scales of supervisory appointments, a combined selection grade of Rs.160-10-250 was introduced in 1928 AD in place of the two selection grades of Rs.145-5-170 and Rs.175-10-225.[100]

The fall in revenue of the Department in 1930-31 AD and 1931-32 AD due to the economic depression necessitated adoption of several measures to improve the financial position of the Department which included the reduction in the scale of pay of the various cadres of the Department had been mostly of the order of 20 to 30 percent. The revised scales introduced were for the purpose of bringing them in line with the general level of wages prevailing then and not with the idea of making them permanent for all times to come.[101]

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[99] ARPO 1926-27, p.4. [100] Report of the Postal Enquiry Committee, 1934-35, p.114.

[101] ARPO 1934-35, p.3. Rajadhyakshya, G.S. Adjudication, pp. 14, 15, 17, 26, 271 and Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, pp.202, 208, 209, 217. During 1935 AD the pay of the following categories was revised as follows:

	(In rupees)	
	Old Scales	Revised Scales
Director General	3500-100-4000	-
Postmasters General/ Deputy Directors General (non I.C.S.)	2000-100-2500	2000 1600
Deputy Postmaster General	1000-50-1500	750, 850, 950.
Presidency Postmasters	1000-50-1500 800-40-1000	750, 850, 950. (with special pay for Bombay and Calcutta)
Superintendents of Post Offices and R.M.S.	300-20-600-25-750	240-20-480-15-600
Gazetted Postmasters, Delhi, Lahore, Karachi, & Poona.	700-25-800	600
Senior Scale Postmasters, Deputy Postmasters, Assistant Superintendents etc.	250-20-350	200-10-250
Junior Selection Grade -	160-10-250	130-6-190
Clerks etc.	35-5-135 to 60-4-160	35-110 to 45-120
Mail Overseers etc.	35-4-75 to 60-4-110	35-2-55
Postmen etc.	18-1-38 to 60-4-100	18-1/2-28 to 24-1/2-34
Runners & Post Office Packers	13-1/4-18 to 17-1/4-22	12-1/4-17 to 16-1/5-18

During the retrenchment campaign from 1931 to 1934 AD, the Department converted many of the less important sub post offices into extra departmental sub offices and the allowance fixed for such office was Rs.30 to 40.[102] In case of the extra departmental branch offices, the remuneration was subject to a minimum of Rs.6 and maximum of Rs.20 per month.[103]

During the second World War period allowances such as the dearness allowance and war allowance were granted to the staff. The good conduct pay was granted in 1943 AD and payment of compensatory and house rent allowance was extended to the subordinate and other staff in cities like Bombay and Calcutta in 1944 AD.[104] The supply of food-grain at concessional rates at certain selected centres which was in force earlier was continued during the war period also.[105] Extra departmental branch postmasters were also granted dearness allowance at the rate of Rs.2 per month in 1943 AD and the amount was raised from time to time.[106]

Following the postmen's strike in 1946 AD, a Sunday allowance at the rate of one rupee per day was sanctioned to packers and postmen who were required to work on Sunday and post office holidays.[107] On the advice of Posts and Telegraphs Expert Committee, 1948 AD, overtime up to 3 hours per day when the extra work exceeded half an hour subject to a limit of 70 hours in a period of 4 weeks in a month was allowed to the staff for clearance of extra work caused by fluctuation in traffic, absenteeism, or other reasons.[108] In 1952 AD, the rates of over time allowance paid to a post office clerk were 8 annas for 3 hours extra work with the exclusion of first hour. For one hour's extra work two annas were paid which was the rate paid by the Railways to a gangman, the lowest paid unskilled employee.[109]

In 1948 AD the existing minimum allowance of the extra departmental branch postmaster, was increased to Rs.10 and the maximum of Rs.20 per mensum was raised to Rs.25 at the uniform rate of Rs.10 per mensum. Dearness allowance was granted with the simultaneous withdrawal of the then existing good conduct pay and dearness allowance of Rs.5 and Rs.8 respectively.[110]

Till 1947 AD the posts of varying clerical, ministerial, executive and out-door duties whose incumbents did not enjoy gazetted status constituted of the category of "subordinate" services and the posts whose pay did not exceed Rs.30 comprised of inferior service. These categories were described as class III and class IV respectively from 1947 AD.[111]

The Central Pay Commission in 1947 AD, recommended the scales of Rs.60-4-120-EB-5-170 for clerks Rs.160-10-250 and Rs.250-15-325 for junior and senior selection grades respectively.[112] For Class II services a scale of Rs.275-25-500-EB-30-650-EB-30-800 was recommended and Deputy Postmasters General got the scale of Rs.1000-50-1400 while the Presidency Postmasters received the pay scale of Rs.1750-2150 on recommendations of the First Pay Commission.

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102. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.232. 103. ibid p.232.
104. ibid p.50. 105. Rajadhyaksha G.S. Adjudication, p.39.
106. Report of the Committee on E.D. System, 1958, p.72.
107. Report of the P&T Expert Committee, 1948, pp. 18,67. 108. ibid, pp. 79, 132.
109. Report of the Committee on E.D. System, 1958, p.72. and Parliamentary Debates, Vol.II NO:1 of 23rd June 1992.
110. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.218 and Report of the Second Pay Commission, 1957-59, pp.289-296. 111. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.17.
112. Report of the Second Pay Commission, 1957-59, p.214.

Packers and porters were given the scale of Rs.30-1/2-35 and postmen were placed on Rs.35-1-50.[113] The Overseers were paid Rs.60-5/2-75.[114] The remunerations of extra departmental employees were fixed with reference generally to work and attendance required.[115]

Towards stationery allowance the clerk and the postman got 8 annas and 3 annas respectively to purchase the necessary stationery for the whole month since 1932 AD which was considered to be insufficient.

The Compensatory (city) and house rent allowances at prescribed rates for certain localities which had been classified with 3 grades namely, A , B and C were paid since 1947 AD. In the light of the population figures of 1951 AD Census, the amended list of towns in various categories were further reviewed in 1953 AD and some more towns where added to the list.[116] The Third Pay Commission classified the cities based on the population figures of 1971 AD, and recommended payment of city compensatory allowance to employees at cities classified as "A" and "B" only.[117]

Scheme of Time Bound Promotions

A scheme of Time Bound One Promotion was introduced with effect from 30th November 1983 AD. The Scheme covers all officials belonging to the basic grades in Group `C' and Group `D' and is applicable to operative cadres. Under this Scheme the officials on completion of 16 years of regular service in respective grades are placed in the next higher grade subject to their being found fit.[118]

Another scheme for ensuring second time bound promotion in the career of all employees in Group `C' and Group `D' operative cadres by the way of a biennial cadre review with the twin objective of increased job satisfaction and higher productivity was worked out and implemented in 1992-93 AD. The scheme covered approximately 35,000 Group `C' and 9000 Group `D' employees. The benefit of the Time Bound One Promotion Scheme was extended to SBCO staff with conversion of the LDC/UDC cadres in to postal assistants in the Savings Bank Control Organisations (SBCO).[119]

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113. ibid, pp. 215, 213, 223.

114. ibid, p.222. 115. ibid p.233.

116. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.50 and Posts and Telegraphs Directorate No.PE. 8-2/51 Pt. of 1955, p.71. and Parliamentary Debates, Vol.II No:1 of 23rd June 1932, p.2353.

117. Commerce and Industry, P&T E No.2/4 of 21st October, 1859, p.2 and Financial, Salaries. C. 1546 & 1547 of May 1904, p.8. Report of the Central Pay Commission, 1947, p.17 and Report of Third Pay Commission, volume IV, p.6.

118. ARPO 1983-84, pp.5,32. The Scheme envisages a reduction of 5% and 15% of staff strength in operative and supervisory cadres respectively to ensure higher productivity and to provide matching savings against the expenditure incurred by the government under the one promotion scheme.

119. ARPO 1992-93, p.42.

There were 9 gazetted cadres and 8 important non-gazetted (Group `C') and Group `D' cadres in the Department as on 31st March 1992 AD.[120] The expenses on account of salaries and establishment charges of the post office amounted to 81.61 percent and 75.60 percent of the total expenditure in 1953-54 AD and 1992-93 AD respectively.

The Government never aimed to make the Department of Posts as a major revenue earning agency and perhaps it was due to this reason that one could never see the constant impact of rising price index on the increase of the postal charges.

The growth of postal (foreign) services is also of considerable interest and is discussed in the ensuing chapter.

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120. Book of Information 1993, pp.8,9. Pay Scales of various categories of gazetted and non-gazetted staff as on 31st March 1992 AD are as follows:

	Scales in (Rs.)
(a) Secretary	8000/- (fixed)
(b) Member gr.'A'	7300-200-7500-250-8000
(c) Higher grade gr.'A'	7300-100-7600
(d) Senior Administrative grade gr.'A'	5000-200-6700
(e) Junior Administrative grade gr.'A'	3700-125-4700-150-5000-4500-150-5000
(f) Senior Time Scale gr.'A'	3000-100-3500-125-4500.
(g) Junior Time Scale gr.'A'	2200-75-2800-EB-100-4000.
(h) Gazetted gr. B	2000-60-2300-EB-75-3200-100-3500.
(i) Gazetted gr.'B' (Senior PA in GCS gr.B)	2000-60-2300-EB-75-3200.
Non-Gazetted Staff :	(Group'C')
1. HSG I Postmaster	2000-60-2300-EB-75-3200
2. Assistant Superintendent of Post Offices	1640-60-2000-EB-75-2900.
3. HSG II Postmaster	1600-50-2300-EB-60-2660.
4. Inspector/Lower Selection grade Sub-Postmaster	1400-40-1800-EB-50-2300.
5. Postal Assistant	975-25-1150-EB-30-1660.
6. Motor Lorry Driver (Time Scale)	950-20-1150-EB-25-1500.
7. Head Postman/Mail overseer	950-20-1150-EB-25-1400.
8. Packer/Letter Box Peon etc.	750-12-870-EB-14-940.

------------------- *Chapter Nine* -------------------

POSTAL (FOREIGN) SERVICE

The development of Postal (Foreign) Service or Foreign Post has an interesting history. The term Foreign Post applies to the Postal Services which do not come within the definition of Inland Post. In other words the history of Foreign Post is the history of development of four aspects connected with it. First, the improvements made in utilisation of Sea routes and Airways to communicate with different parts of the globe; the second being the network of British Indian Post Offices opened in the Indian neighbourhood; the third about the developments of Foreign Postal Facilities made available through India Post; and the fourth is regarding the development of Foreign Post Operations. First of these aspects ie., the account of origin of communication between India, Europe and the East by overland, sea and airways is discussed hereunder.

Utilisation of Sea Routes and Airways

Sea Routes

In the early days of history, the route to India was mostly over land via Syria and Persia, and indeed, the story of book of Genesis and of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel is the geography of this route.[1] India has from days of old been the goal of merchants eager to possess themselves of the treasures of nature. Horace, the Roman poet, alludes to this fact in the following words; "*Impiger extremos currit mercator ad Indos, Permare paupericem fugiems, per saxa, per ignos*" or "*Restless travels the merchant to the most distant Indians, fleeing from poverty by sea, through cliffs, through fire*".[2]

In the middle ages India could only be reached by a very arduous journey, so that the products of this fertile country could only be obtained by means of toilsome carrying trade. The ordinary route then in use was up the Indus-river as far as the river is navigable, and thereby land to Amoo-Panja or Oxus, from there to the Caspian Sea,- Volga - thence over land to the Don, and lastly to the Black sea, whence the goods found their way, partly by land, partly by water in various European countries.[3]

A second route on which trade was carried on by the Arabs and Turks was that from India by sea to Baghdad, whence the merchandise was conveyed by means of caravans to Asia Minor, Syria, and Egypt where it was shipped for Europe. Constantinople and Alexandria were then the Chief marts for the Indian trade which involved a large expenditure of time and money.[4]

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[1] Union Postale, 1927, p. 384.

[2] Union Postale, Vol VII, 1883, pp. 25, 26.

[3] ibid. p.26.

[4] ibid, p.26.

Later, when these overland routes were closed by the Mohammedan power in the fifteenth century, and other means of transit had to be found, it was by way of the Cape of Good Hope that traffic then passed; and, later still, when the need for quicker transit arose via the Red Sea.[5]

Even previous to the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco-de Gama in the year 1498 AD, the shortest, or at least the most rapid route from Europe to India was the object of constant research. When in 1600 AD, the British East India Company - which two years later, was followed by the Dutch East India Company - was founded, the commercial relations between the respective mother-countries and the colonies received such an impetus that most strenuous efforts were made to facilitate them. Holland established at the Cape of Good Hope a special postal service by means of small vessels. The long and dangerous route round the Cape was used not only for the conveyance of goods, but also by travellers, and for postal service.[6]

The East India Company had steadily obtained control of the Eastern routes, and it was by ships of that company, running down between India and Suez, that the connection between England, Egypt and the East was maintained in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.[7]

As early as the year 1780 AD, Col. James Copper, who was in the service of East India Company proposed the Suez route, more particularly for the transmission of Government despatches. This route is said to have been tried by Col. Taylor in 1790 AD but it would seem that difficulties having arisen at once, it was again given up.[8]

It is, however, interesting to know that in 1830 AD a private postal service was established from Damascus to Baghdad, and Busrah, under the direction of Mr. Roberts Tool, an English merchant at Baghdad who was assisted in this undertaking by Mr. Taylor, the British Minister at Baghdad and Busrah, and enjoyed the support of Syria. A messenger was despatched every 20th day from Damascus, and performed the journey to Busrah in 15 to 21 days. From there the letters were forwarded by the ship to Bombay. Between Constantinople and Aleppo there was monthly communication by means of Government servants who required, as a rule, 15 days to travel from the one to the other city. This line possessed over the advantage of being less dependent on the state of the sea and more rapid. If this route is made use of, the letter from London to Busrah took about 70 days.[9]

In 1833 AD, Lieutenant Thomas Waghorn started his enterprise of the carriage of mails across Egypt, thence conveying them by the Red Sea to Bombay. In 1834 AD, a Select Committee of the House of Commons enquired into the means of providing communication by steamer with India, and resolved in their report dated 14th July, 1934 AD, that the establishemnt of regular and expeditious communication by means of steam vessels was an object of great importance, both to Great Britain and to India.[10]

In the meantime, (by about 1834 AD or earlier), the steamship engines had been so much impowered that the speed of these vessels had been increased by 30 percent, some steamboats showing even more satisfactory results. Another improvement was the adoption of the American system of generating steam by means of anthracite instead of common coal, by which a saving of fuel, amounting to about 2/5ths was obtained. The steamers had up to that time, required coaling stations for comparatively short distances, and the establishment of such stations on the Red sea was attended with great difficulties, and heavy expense. But in consequence of an insult offered to the British Flag, the city and Cape of Aden were, in 1839 AD ceded to the English by the Sultan of that place on payment of yearly compensation of 8700 dollars, and thus the Red sea was thrown open to steam navigation.[11]

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[5] Union Postale, 1927, p, 384.

[6] L'Union Postale VII Vol, 1883, p.26.

[7] Union Postale, 1927, pp. 384, 385.

[8] L'Union Postale, VIII Vol. 1883, p.27.

[9] ibid. p. 27.

[10] Union Postale, 1927, p. 385.

In the year 1839 AD, the British Government effected a convention with the French Government for the transmission of mails for and from India through France via Marseilles. From Marseilles a British Admiralty vessel conveyed the mails to Malta, whence, with the large and heavier portion which by arrangement was conveyed by the P. & O Company's steamers via Gibraltar, they were taken to Alexandria. But these arrangements did not work regularly and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation (P.& O) Company was asked to submit a plan establishing a more rapid and regular means of transportation to and from the East. The proposals made by the Company being satisfactory, this service was undertaken. The East India Company, realising that communication with India was now placed on an efficient basis, made an arrangement with the P.& O. Company for services between Suez and Calcutta, and ultimately, regular steam services were inaugurated between Southampton and Alexandria and between Suez and India. This was the commencement of Eastern mail service.[12]

The P.& O. Company considered that this enterprise was a necessity of the age, and likely, sooner or later, to prove remunerative; they also considered that traffic of an Indian service would materially assist their existing Mediterranean Line. With this conviction they applied for and obtained a Royal Charter in 1840 AD. The Charter was granted on the condition that the Company established steam communication with India within two years, and the Directors at once set about implementing their engagement by building the "Hindostan" and "Bentinck" and purchasing the "Precursor". These vessels were of 1800 tons and 500 horse-power respectively. The "Hindostan" was the first steamer despatched by the Company to India, and her departure from Southampton for Calcutta, on 24th September, 1842 AD, marked an epoch in the annals of steam navigation. This enterprise was publicly treated as one of national importance.[13]

The journey on Overland Route by being whirled across the Isthmus of Suez by rail was of much discomfort in pre-railway days. In those early days, after landing at Alexandria, the first part of the transit was by the Mahmoudieh Canal, which collected Alexandria with the Nile and by means of which the produce of the Nile Delta was diverted to that port from Rosetta, the former emporium of trade. This journey of 48 miles was accomplished in a big, mastless canal boat towed by a steam tug at the rate of five miles an hour. from Atfeh, where the canal debouches from the Nile, steamers started for Cairo, a distance of 120 miles and accomplished the journey in about sixteen hours to Boulac, near Cairo, where passengers landed. Passengers had then to remain the night in Boulac, but sometimes two or even three days were spent at this place. From Cairo to Suez the route lay across the desert for 90 miles, and the journey was performed in two-wheeled omnibuses holding six persons, and drawn by four mules or horses, the road being merely a track across the desert. There were various stations at which horses could be changed, in from eight to ten miles, and the journey took about 16 to 18 hours, of which time about 10 hours were occupied in actual travel and the remainder in stops for rest and refreshment. It may, therefore, be said that at this time a very efficient system had been provided by the P.& O. Company for the conveyance of mails, passengers and cargo across Egypt. On arrival at Suez mails and passengers were embarked for the journey to India.[14]

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[11] L'Union Postale, 1883, p.29.

[12] Union Postale, 1927, p. 386.

[13] ibid, pp. 390 - 394.

The transport of cargo by these primitive methods was even more difficult than that of passengers and mails, more especially between Cairo and Suez, where every package had to be carried on camel's back, a distance of nearly 100 miles. Many thousands of these animals were employed in this work, which embraced, in addition, the carriage of water from the Nile for the several desert stations and for Suez. The mail from the East, made up at Bombay, consisted of bundles of letters which were packed in strong iron boxes of about two feet by one foot, and eighteen inches in depth, securely bound and sealed with solder, as it was said that wax would be melted by the heat of the climate. These boxes were stamped with a crown and the words "General Post Office Indian Mail" stencilled upon them. The number of boxes varied from 30 to 40 and together they constituted the mail conveyed from Bombay to Egypt.[15]

The following extract from the report of the Committee of 1853 AD on Mail Contracts makes curious reading - *"The mails are despatched twice a month and rapidity which leaves nothing to be desired. The time occupied in the voyage to and fro between England and Bombay, which before the establishment of the overland route, averaged about two hundred and twenty-four days, is now no more than eighty-seven days."*[16] As time went on further improvements were effected and, in the spring of 1851 AD, the P.& O. Company made arrangements for the construction of the railway between Alexandria and Cairo, placing the contract in the hands of the eminent engineer, Sir Macdonald Stephenson, M.P. This railway was completed in 1859 AD. Also, with a view to improving the passage of the Red Sea, the P.& O. Company pressed for the erection of lighthouses, and in 1857 AD the Company prepared plans and, at the request of the British and Egyptian Governments, arranged for the erection of lighthouses at Zaffarina, Ashrafi and Daedalus. The Company provided the staff and managed these lighthouses until April, 1863 AD when they were taken over by the Egyptian Government. Thus, through the efforts of the Company, the establishment of lighthouses on the Red Sea was secured.[17]

Things continued pretty much in this condition until the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 AD. It was the P.& O. steamer "Delta" which conveyed the guests for that event. The first P.& O. steamship passed through the Canal in 1888 AD, and the transit time was 16 hours. At one time, with a view to facilitating the delivery of letters, sorting of mail was arranged on boat, which practice was continued later.[18]

The contracts entered into by British Indian Government with the British Indian Steam Navigation Company although based to a large extent on grounds independent of postal considerations, as a matter of convenience, were brought under the supervision and control of the Post Office Department and this was accordingly done from 1869 AD onwards.[19]

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[14] Union Postale, 1927, p.394. [15] ibid, p.16. [16] Murray, Sir, Evelyn. The Post Office, p.64.
[17] Union Postale, 1927, p.396. [18] ibid. p.396. [19] ARPO, 1869-70, p.13.

A weekly mail service between Bombay and Europe was commenced in 1867 AD. The new contract with P.& O. Company contained provision for the supply, without extra charge of accommodation for sorting the mails on board, and of free passages for the sorters. In the year 1868 AD sorting of paid letters and news papers while in transit by sea between Bombay and Suez was introduced. The Overland mails were, thus, landed in Bombay ready for despatch inland and the frequent detention of large portions of the mail for an entire day in Bombay is obviated. In 1888 AD Sea-sorting of the mails was restricted between Bombay and Aden instead of between Port Said and Bombay.[20]

Various other contracts were made at different times between H.M. Government and the P.& O. for the conveyance of the Indian and Eastern Mails which at one time included services to the Black Sea and to Maruitius. In 1928 AD the Company performed in the course of its mail contract Services no less than 26,34,032 miles and provided space for mail matter totalling approximately 1,00,000 tons, comprising nearly one million and a half mail bags.[21]

The grandest postal service of early modern times was, without doubt, the British Indian Overland Mail, quite apart from its great importance to the trade and inter-course of the countries intersected, this service was very remarkable on account of three different circumstances. The first was the very great length of this line which traversed or touched three of the great divisions of the world (If the mail packet were from Point de Galle to Australia is added, it also served by the Indian mail) the second, the large and constantly increasing proportions of the mails forwarded; and the third, the extra-ordinary rapidity and punctuality with which the conveyance is effected.[22] (see Illustrations 16 and 17 for P.& O. Navigation Ship and Imperial Mail at Ballard Pier).

British Indian Overland Mail was an international postal service in the full meaning of the word. It was one of the great arteries by which the necessary blood was conveyed to the heart of that great instrument of modern civilisation, the trade of world.[23]

During the year 1868 AD arrangements were made for exchanging mails with the United States of America via Hong-Kong by the vessels of the Pacific Mail Steam Ship Company plying between Hong-Kong, Japan and San-Fransisco.[24]

In 1902-03 AD, mail communication was established between the Indian and Persian postal systems across the Baluchistan-Seistan Frontier and arrangements were also made for direct mail communication between Chinese province of Yunnan and Burma.[25]

In 1914 AD, the Indian mail reached Bombay in little over a fortnight from London and when Air Service was started in the said year, urgent letters were carried in eight or nine days. Air transport attracted a much wider clientele and produced far-reaching changes in the ocean mail system.[26]

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[20] ARPO 1866-67, pp. 1-3. [21] Union Postale, 1927, p. 397.
[22] L'Union Postale, VIII Vol. 1883, p.25. [23] L'Union Postale, 1883, p.60.
[24] ARPO 1868-69, p.3. [25] ARPO 1902-03, p.2. [26] Murray, ibid, p.64.

Airways

The striking development of postal transport in the third decade of the 20th century is the Air mail. Advantage was taken of the Busrah-Cairo Air Mail Service inaugurated by the Imperial Airways, Ltd., with effect from January 1927 AD to send correspondence, ordinary and registered to Egypt, Europe and America. A special fee of 3 annas per oz. was levied on each article intended for transmission by this service. The service was fortnightly until the end of March 1927 AD. The first despatch of mails from India for conveyance by this air service was made from Karachi on the 2nd January 1927 AD and was transmitted to Basrah by the fast Persian Steamer to connect with the airmail despatch from Busrah. Since February, a mail bag for Busrah containing articles intended for transmission by this air service was closed also by Bombay General Post Office.[27]

On the 6th April 1929 AD, the first aeroplane from London with mails for India arrived at Karachi, and the return aeroplane left the following day with mails for Iraq, Palestine, Egypt and Great Britain. The services were subsequently extended for the conveyance of air mail articles for most of the countries in Europe and Persia. From the first week of October, 1932 AD, the route of the Imperial Airways service was changed, via Bahrain and the Arabian coast and in consequence correspondence for Jask, Lingah and Bushire ceased to be transmitted by this service.[28]

From October, 1932 AD, onwards the services of K.L.M. (Dutch) and the Air Orient (French) services were utilised for the despatch of correspondence from Indian to Siam, the Malay States, the Straits Settlements, the Dutch East Indies, and French Indo-China and from 1st March 1933 AD to Persia (Jask and Bushire).

India's first long distance International Air Service operated by the Air-India International between, Bombay and London touching Cairo and Geneva en-route was inaugurated on the 8th June 1948 AD. Initially this service operated once a week but from the lst November 1948 AD, it was stepped up to twice weekly. This was the first venture by Indian enterprise for running an air service beyond the borders of India.[29]

Beginning with the London-Karachi service opened in 1929 AD, the airmail has gradually secured a footing as a valuable adjunct to the foreign mail service for urgent communications, new routes were opened and connections to many of the principal cities of the globe were established. The correspondence carried by air increased year by year and a high standard of regularity came to be maintained gradually.

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27. ARPO 1927. p.2.

28. ARPO 1929-30, p.2.

29. ARPO, 1948-49, p.1.

British Indian Post Offices opened in Indian neighbourhood

India Post has a glorious history of nurturing the modern postal system in its neighbourhood. The Imperial political and commercial needs of the British necessitated opening of British Indian Post Offices in the Persian Gulf, Aden, African East Coast ie., Zanzibar and Somali Coast, and Straits settlements including the sea port town of Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

In Persian Gulf

The history of postal communication with West Asia is as old as that of Indus Valley Civilisation which flourished between 2500 BC - 1500 BC when India had trade links with West Asia and Mesopotamia. The seal as in Illustration No.2 appears to have been used for stamping packages containing commodities of sea trade to these countries. The East India Company established a factory in 1622 AD at Gombroon, the present sea-port of Bunder Abbas, and transferred the factory to Bushire in 1762 AD. Later in the 18th century when the factory was closed, a Political Agency was established at Bushire, a Political Agent was appointed at Muscat, and later at Guadur on the Mekran Coast. About the middle of the 18th century a Residency and Consulate-General was established at Baghdad and at Busrah an Agency for the purpose of trade. The Political Agencies appear to have been dependent for communication with India on the occasional visits of Indian Navy vessels from Bombay, but from an early date in the 18th Century, postal communication of a desultory kind was maintained between Busrah and England via Aleppo and Constantinople. In the last years of the century regular fortnightly communication was established between Bombay and Busrah, by means of the cruisers of the Bombay Marine, while between Busrah and Aleppo under the supervision of the Company's Agent, a regular dromedary post was kept up, and from Aleppo a horse-post to Constantinople. It is interesting to learn that in 1789 AD, Lord Nelson, after the battle of the Nile, communicated the intelligence of his victory to the Bombay Government by this route.[30]

One of the principal duties of the Resident at Busrah was in connection with the Desert post by which despatches were forwarded to England from the Bombay Government. Later on the post of Resident was abolished, and in 1833 AD, the desert post was closed as despatches, when forwarded overland, were sent in the Company's cruisers via Cossim on the Red Sea, and Cairo.[31]

Representations were made by the political officers in the Gulf to the postal authorities in India and to the Government of Bombay for establishment of through communication between India and the Persian Gulf. This resulted in establishment of properly organised post offices.

The first post offices in the Persian Gulf were opened in May 1864 AD at Bushire and Muscat, and at various intervals from 1864 AD post offices were established at Bunder Abbas, Linga, Guadur, Jask, Bahrain, Mohammerah and Pasni. Post Offices in Turkish Arabia were established at a somewhat later date than the first post offices in the Persian Gulf.[32]

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30. Br. POs in P.G., p.1.
31. Br. Pos in P.G., p.3.
32. Br. Pos in P.G., p.3.

The post offices in the Persian Gulf were first placed under the control of the Bombay postal circle, but in 1869 AD, they were transferred to the Sind circle and placed under the Chief Inspector of Post Offices, Sind and the Persian Gulf. In 1879 AD, they were finally re-transferred to the Bombay circle and placed under the Postmaster General of Bombay. In 1883 AD, a Superintendent of Post Offices in the Persian Gulf was made in charge of the post offices in the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia which was constituted a divisional charge under the Bombay postal circle, and owing to the peculiar position of the post offices and the character of work.[33]

The steam service from Bombay to the Persian Gulf and Busrah and from the latter place to Baghdad began in 1862 AD by steamers running to and from between Bombay and Busrah and Busrah and Baghdad every six weeks. In 1866 AD the service was made monthly and in July 1870 AD the contract with the British India Steam Navigation Company was renewed for eight years, and a fortnightly service to Busrah arranged. Under this contract Karachi, Guador, Muscat, Bunderabbas, Linga, Bushire, Fao, and Busrah were made contract ports of call and Anjam and Bahrain optional. In 1878 AD the contract was renewed and arrangements were concluded for the weekly service since in force, Muscat, Guadur, Jask, and Bahrain continuing to be fortnightly ports of call. The steamers put in to Bahrain only on the voyage up the Gulf. On the return journey, mails from Bushire, etc., for Bahrain are dropped at Linga and picked up by the next up steamer.[34]

The British Indian Post Office at Bushire was opened on the 1st of May 1864 AD. It delivered local letters, received correspondence for Bushire from Bombay, Karachi and post offices in the Persian Gulf and from the offices at Baghdad and Busrah, and Indian inland rates of postage previously charged between all these offices still remained unaltered.[35]

The post office at Muscat was opened on the 1st May, 1864 AD. In 1866 AD, two years after the post office had been opened, it was closed in consequence of the disturbed state of the town, and remained closed from March to July 1866 AD, during which period the mail steamers were unable to call at Muscat. In February, 1867 AD, the post office was re-opened on the original scale.[36] Both the fast and slow steamers called at Muscat weekly.[37]

On 1st April 1867 AD, experimental sub-post offices, under the Bushire head post office, were opened at Linga and Bunder Abbas.[38] The Guadur post office was opened on the 12th April 1868 AD.[39] Owing to the unhealthiness of the place, postal officials sent to Guadur constantly fell ill and it was found difficult to get substitutes to take their place.[40]

A post office was opened at Jask on the 1st September 1880 AD. Jask had no commercial importance. The principal duties of the post office were in connection with the employees of the Telegraph station and a detachment of soldiers under a native officer sent from India for the protection of the station.[41]

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[33] Br. Pos in P.G.,pp. 4,7. [34] Br. Pos in P.G., p.16:
[35] ibid, pp. 20, 27. [36] ibid, p. 35. [37] ibid, p. 38. [38] ibid, p. 38.
[39] ibid, p.41. [40] ibid, p.43. [41] ibid, p. 44. [42] ibid, p.45.

A post office at Bahrain was opened and placed in account with the Karachi and Bushire head post offices on the 1st August 1884 AD,[42] and a sub-office was opened at Mohammerah in account with Bushire on the 19th July 1892 AD.[43] A combined post office was opened at Pasni on the Mekaran Coast on the 1st November 1903 AD in account with Karachi post office.[44]

Fao was a telegraph station at the mouth of Shat-el-Arab and was the office of exchange between the Indo-European Submarine and the Turkish Telegraph Departments. There was no village near the station and the only occupants of the place were an English Assistant Superintendent and two or three signallers of the Indo-European Telegraph Establishment, some officials of the Imperial Ottoman Telegraph and Quarantine bureaux, and a few Turkish police. There was no British Indian Post Office at Fao, but the post offices at Bushire and Busrah made up bags for the Telegraph officials of the Indo-European Telegraph establishment at that place, and prior to January 1886 AD, it had been the practice to enclose in the bag from Busrah letters, whether paid or unpaid, for the Turkish officials at Fao and also occasional letters for the residents of an Arab village on the other side of the water.[45]

On the 1st January 1868 AD, a post office was opened at Busrah and on the same date a post office was opened at Baghdad also as an extension of a system already established at Bushire and Muscat.[46] The office of postmaster Baghdad was held by a clerk of the Residency who carried on the duties in addition to his own. Mails were closed for Bombay, Karachi, Guadur, Muscat, Bunder Abbas, Linga, Bushire, Busrah, Kermanshah, Hamadan, Isphan and Teheran and a regular delivery of letters was made in the town of Baghdad, while letters for the distant suburb of Kusmayne were kept in deposit till called for. Letters for Kerbala, about 60 miles from Baghdad, the scene of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam-i-Hussain, grandson of the Prophet (Sallallahu-aliehi-o-sallam), were sent out to the care of the honorary native Agent there by a monthly messenger paid from the Oudh Endowment Fund. In 1878 AD, weekly communication with Kerbala was kept up, but regular despatches had eventually to be abandoned and letters sent out as opportunities occurred. There had always been a considerable number of letters, money orders, and other articles from India for Kerbela, as besides the yearly pilgrims who return to their homes, numbers of Indian Mohammedans settled there to spend the remainder of their lives near the shrine of the saint and are in constant correspondence with their friends in India.[47]

The opening of a post office and through communication was an immense boon to Baghdad, and the Consul-General writing on the subject shortly after the service had been established considered that "the facility and security afforded to the commercial communities would develop trade." This prediction was clearly verified by the rapid growth of business in every branch of the post office. Jewish and Armenian merchants, however, took advantage of the Indian parcel post to import raw silk and other materials for the manufacture of fabrics and ornamental waist-belts for which Baghdad and Najef enjoyed some reputation.[48]

In 1882 AD, the subject of the Post Office in Turkish Arabia was taken up at Constantinople by the Ottoman minister for Foreign Affairs and a demand made that the Indian post offices at Baghdad and Busrah should be closed and the desert post abolished. The Ottoman proposals were, however, rejected on the broad ground that there would be a

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43. ibid, p.47. 44. ibid, p. 49. 45. Br. Pos in P.G. 46. Br. POs in P.G., pp.51, 55.
47. Br. POs in P.G., pp. 58, 59. 48. Br. Pos in P.G., p.65. 49. Br. Pos. in P.G., p.66.

loss of facility for commerce between Indian and Turkish Arabia which the British Indian post offices at Busrah and Baghdad secured. They further alluded that they had no confidence whatever in the efficiency of Turkish service that might be substituted and that commercial interest would suffer by any change.[48]

At Constantinople, the foreign post offices were not consular, but at Smyrna and Beirut, as at Baghdad and Busrah, they formed part of their respective Consulates. The following information regarding the British consular post office at Smyrna is of considerable interest: *"English postage stamps are sold and mails exchanged with London, Malta, Larnaca, and the British post offices at Constantinople and Beirut. The London bags include correspondence for the United Kingdom, the north-west of Europe, America, and West and South Africa. Letters for North Africa and Gibraltar are sent to Malta, for Cyprus to Larnaca, also those for India and China, Australia, and the European colonies east of Suez, Constantinople, including European Turkey, Russia, Persia, and north of Asia Minor. Despatches to Beirut include correspondence for that part of Syria south of Beirut, Damascus, and Mesopotamia (Baghdad, etc.). Correspondence for the continent of Europe is generally posted at the French, Austrian and Ottoman post offices in Smyrna. Between India and the British post offices in the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia, Indian inland rates of postage are charged, no charge being made for sea transit, but at Smyrna special rates of postage are fixed to cover sea transit. No mails are exchanged with Alexandria as the Ottoman post office at Smyrna has a direct exchange with the Egyptian post office at Alexandria."*[49]

The Post Office establishments in the Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia were treated as outlying offices of the Indian Post Office entitled to inland rates of postage as between India and themselves. In 1903 AD, the Government of India finally decided to apply UPU rates of postage to correspondence of all classes, except official correspondence, exchanged between India and the Indian post offices at Baghdad, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Busrah, Jask, Linga, Mohammerah and by these offices with one another. This decision left Bahrain, Guadur and Muscat un-affected and the retention of Indian inland rates of postage between India and the Indian post offices at these places.[50]

The Indian Post Offices in Persian Gulf were considered both commercially and politically amongst the most important of British assets.[51] After an existence of more than a century the dromedary post across the Syrian desert was closed in July 1886 AD. Though controlled not by this Department but by the British Consulate, this line formed an important auxiliary to Indian postal arrangements in Turkish Arabia. By this route mails were exchanged between Baghdad and Europe. Originally the line from Busrah at the mouth of the Tigris to Aleppo, but since 1843-44 AD, the termini were Baghdad and Damascus, the time occupied in transit being about nine days. In 1881 AD, Desert post over the same line having been established by the Ottoman Government, the income derived from the Consular Post fell off and as its expenditure exceeded its receipt, the number of trips were first reduced from once a week or once a fortnight, and eventually this British desert post line was wholly discontinued.[52]

Following a complaint by Marnold on 8th February, 1901 AD through His Majesty's Minister, Teheran, unfair competition of British Indian post offices with Persian post offices, correspondence between Persian town on Gulf sea-board carried at half Persian rates it was decided that the Indian post offices at Bushire, Mohammarah, Bunder Abbas, and Lingah were prohibited from accepting from the public any letter, newspaper, pakcets and parcels intended for delivery at any place in Persia. Any such article found posted in the letter box was ordered to be treated as unpaid and transferred to the local Persian post office for disposal, the Indian postage stamps affixed to them not being recognised.[53]

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[50] Foreign Dept., Extl.B. September, 1908, 69-70., P.1. [51] ARPO 1886-87,p.5. [52] Foreign Dept. Secret-E, Feb. 1915, 280-299, Appendix-I.p.8. [53] Foreign & Political, Secret-E. February 1915, 280-299, p.5.

In 1905 AD, Indian post office was established in Kuwait. Further the settlement of American Mission, the increase in trade, the continual growth of the town and its commercial prosperity made the matter of urgent importance as affecting British predominant share in its trade. The Political Resident's office was treated by the local public exactly as a post office. There was a special room for the work and the usual red letter box fixed in a wall so that to all outward appearance there is already a post office. [54] British Post Offices were opened at Mohammerah in 1892 AD and at Charbar and Henjam in 1914 AD. [55]

The closed mails were made up by the Persian Post Offices in the Gulf viz., Bushire, Bundar Abbas, Lingah and Mohammerah for the Indian Post Offices Bombay and Karachi Sea Post Office and transmitted through the local Indian Post Offices. The closed mails were exchanged by the Persian Post Offices in the Gulf through the intermediary of the Indian Post Offices. [56]

At the instance of Turkey, the Indian Post Offices which had been maintained at Baghdad and Busrah since 1968 AD were closed on the 1st October, 1914 AD. After the out break of war with Turkey, however, the Indian Post Office was again opened at Busrah, and new post offices were also opened at Fao and Kuwait. [57]

The correspondence prepaid with Indian Postage Stamps was allowed to be posted by the public on board of the British Mail Steamers while at anchor at the ports of Bundar Abbas, Bushire, Charbar and Lingah. [58]

The offices maintained in the ports of Persian Gulf by the Postal Administration of British India, and Arabia by the Postal Administration of India were closed from 31st March, 1923 AD and in consequence they have ceased all public and private postal operations from 1st April, 1923 AD. The Indian Postal Agencies at all the following places viz, Bundar Abbas, Bushire, Charbar, Henjam, Jask and Lingah and Indian Post Offices at Bahrain, Dubai and Kuwait were also closed with effect from the said date. [59]

Thus after a period of more than five decades the Indian Post Offices which did a pioneering work in developing modern postal system in Persian Gulf and Turkish Arabia were closed in 1923 AD.

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54. Commerce & Industry/Post office. B.No. 11-12 of May 1912, File No. 86 No. 104 dated Kuwait the 6the March,1912, p.2.

55. Foreign and Political, Secret-E of Feb. 1915, 280-299 pp.5,8.

56. Foreign & Political, Secret-E of Feb. 1915, Nos 280-299. p.17.

57. ARPO 1914-15, p.2.

At Zanzibar

The closer of Egyptian Post Offices at Zanzibar and the commercial interests demanded opening of a post office at Zanzibar. British Indian Post Offices were opened at Zanzibar, Berbera (including Bulhar) and Zeila (including Harrar) on the Somali Coast in 1883 AD. British Indian Post Office also existed at Guader in Mekran Coast during 1887 AD.[60]

There was a considerable trade between India and Zanzibar. A certain number of native craftsmen, especially from Kutch and Kathiawar were engaged in the trade during the season of the year from November to May, and during the period from 1882 to 1887 AD, steamers belonging to the Sultan of Zanzibar were run regularly plying between that place and Bombay. On an average 10,000 letters were received in Bombay during the year from Zanzibar by the Sultan's steamers as compared with 3000 carried to Aden by the British India Steamers and then brought on by the Peninsular and Oriental vessel. The rate of postage on letters sent in this way were inland rates only instead of 3 annas for 1/2 oz., the rate of letters sent to Aden and they were further charged on delivery as Ship's letters with one anna bounty money per letter.[61]

Since 1883 AD a four weekly service between Aden and Zanzibar was maintained by the British India Steam Navigation Company under contract. Until August 1888 AD this was the only direct regular steamer service. The mails from the United Kingdom, Germany and other continental countries of Europe were sent to Aden for these steamers, that is to stay, the bulk of the mail was received from those countries at Aden in closed bags for Zanzibar by the various mail steamers, English, French or German, that arrived immediately prior to the date of departure of the British India Steam Navigation Company's steamer. In intermediate weeks some small number of letters and other articles for Zanzibar were also received and closed by Aden in its own mails for Zanzibar. Letters and other articles for India were sent partly by the steamers of the Sultan of Zanzibar plying direct between Bombay and that place and partly via Aden. [62]

Only Inland rates were charged between Aden and Zanzibar and only Aden rates between India and Zanzibar on correspondence sent via Aden. On the letters posted at Aden the Indian Post Office only received half an anna per 1/2 oz.[63] The Indian Post Office at Zanzibar was closed in 1895 AD. After the withdrawal of the Indian Post Office from Zanzibar, the management of the posts of the island was taken over by the Postal Administration of the British East Africa.[64]

Postal arrangements of Straits settlements including the seaport town of Singapore, Penang and Malacca were under the control of British Indian Postal Administration till 1867-68 AD.[65] Aden and Burma comprised a part of Indian postal territory and were, along with British India, admitted as a member of General Postal Union in 1876 AD.[66] In 1890 AD the postage rates between India and Aden were reduced to ordinary inland rates, and thereby

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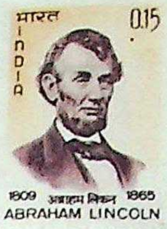
58. Foreign and Political, Secret-E of 1915, 280-299, p.23.
59. Industry & Labour\Post Office F.No.266 of 1924, S.No.1 of 1925, pp.46,62.
60. ARPO 1888-89, p.1. 61. Foreign Department, External -A. May 1889, 82-84, p. 23.
62. Foreign Department Extl.A May 1889, 82-84, p.8. 63. ibid, p.8. 64. ARPO 1895-96, p.2. 65. ARPO 1867-68, p.7. 66. L'Union Postale, 1876, p.76.

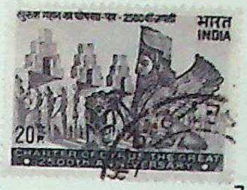
PLATE 11

FOREIGN PERSONALITIES

1


भारत
INDIA
0.15
1809 1865
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

2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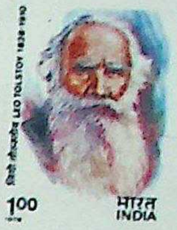
INDIA
20

3


LEO TOLSTOY 1828-1910
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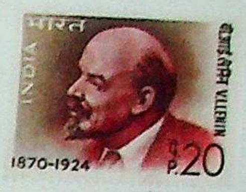
भारत
INDIA

4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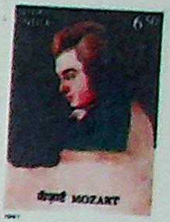
INDIA
V.I. LENIN
1870-1924
20

5



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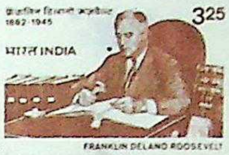
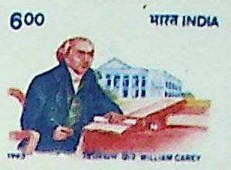

1882-1945
3.25
भारत INDIA
FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

7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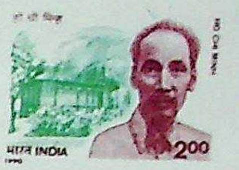
WILLIAM CAREY

8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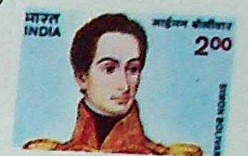
2.00

9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INDIA
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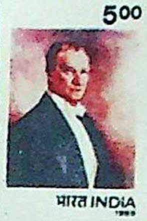
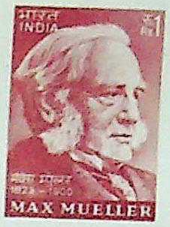
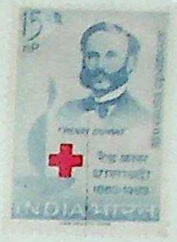
10


5.00
भारत INDIA

11


भारत
INDIA
MAX MUELLER

12



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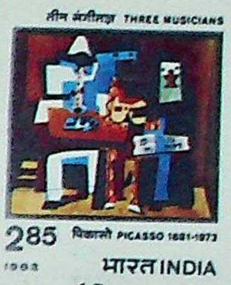
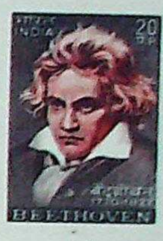

तीन संगीतज्ञ THREE MUSICIANS
2.85
PICASSO 1881-1973
भारत INDIA

14



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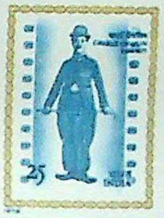

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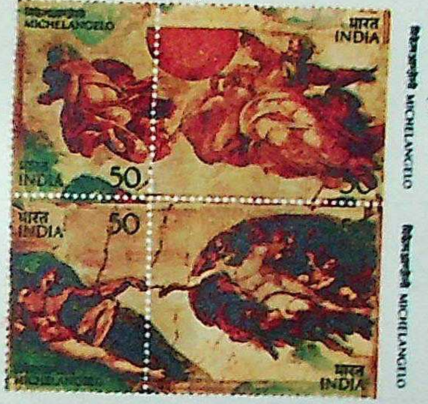
MICHELANGELO
INDIA
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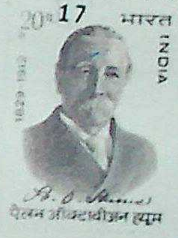
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भारत
INDIA

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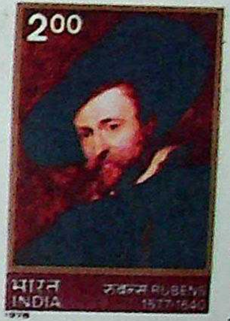
2.00
भारत
INDIA
RUBENS

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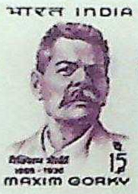
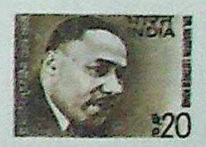

भारत INDIA
15
MAXIM GORKY


भारत
INDIA
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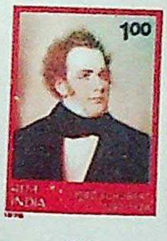

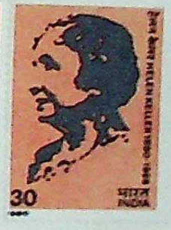

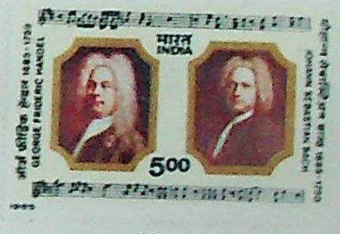
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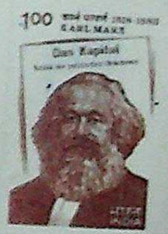
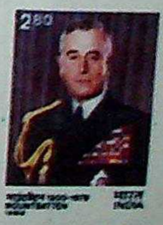
INDIA
5.00

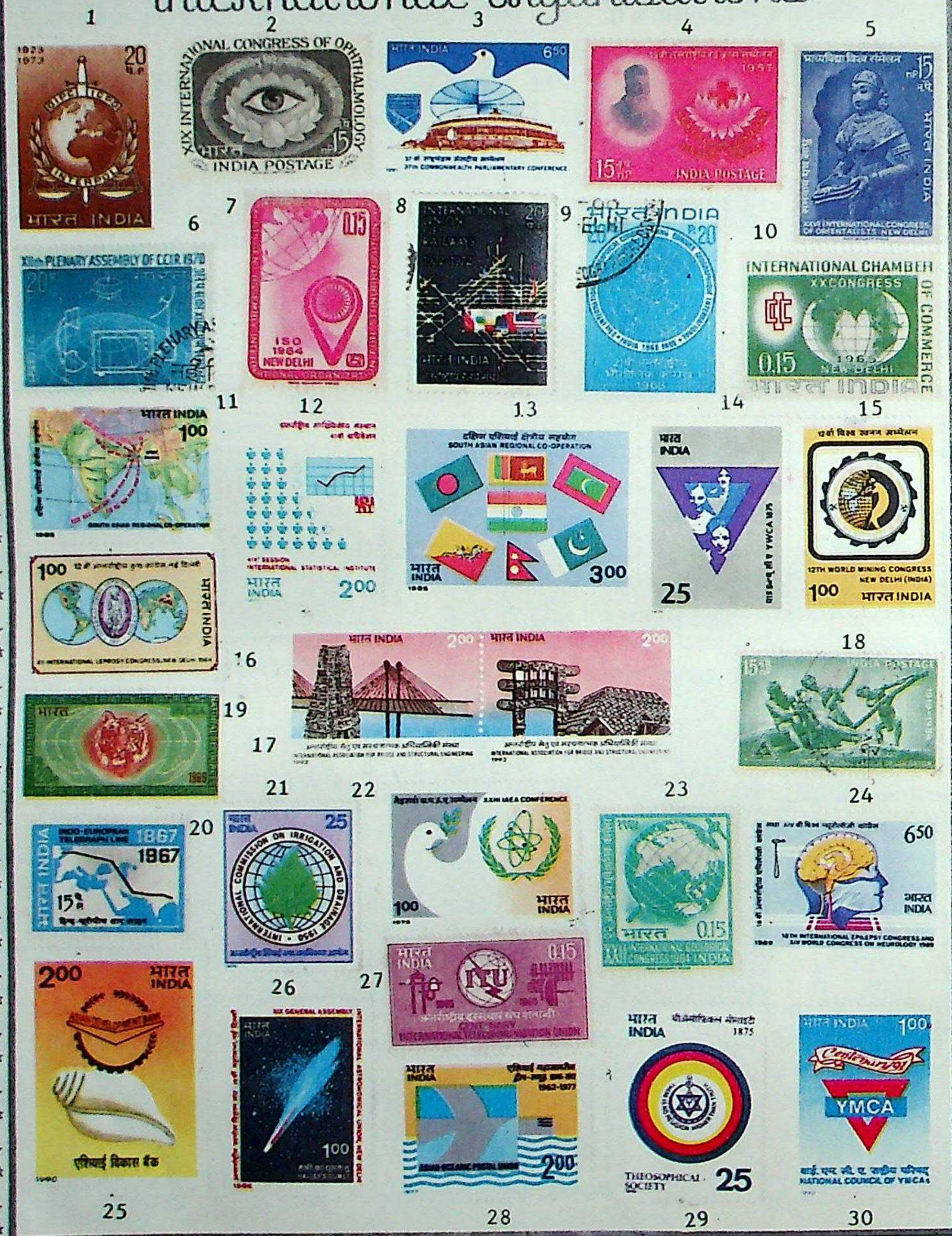

1.00
KARL MARX



21 22 23 24 25

PLATE 12

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS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XIX INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
INDIA POSTAGE
INTERPOL
XXVI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ORIENTALISTS NEW DELHI
XIIth PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF C.C.I.R. 1970
ISO 1964 NEW DELHI
INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE XX CONGRESS 1965 NEW DELHI
SOUTH ASIAN REGIONAL CO-OPERATION
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE
YWCA 1875
12TH WORLD MINING CONGRESS NEW DELHI (INDIA)
INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS NEW DELHI 1984
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BRIDGE AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING
INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH LINE 1867 1967
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE 1950
IAEA CONFERENCE
18TH INTERNATIONAL EPILEPSY CONGRESS AND XIV WORLD CONGRESS ON NEUROLOGY 1989
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
XIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION NEW DELHI
HALLEY'S COMET
ITU 1865 1965 CENTENARY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
ASIAN-OCEANIC POSTAL UNION 1962-1977
THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 1875
YMCA Centenary
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YMCAs
भारत INDIA

recognizing, in a practical way, its position as an integral part of British India.[67] The post offices of British Burma and Aden continued to remain under the control of British Indian Postal Administration till they were separated in 1937 AD when the postal arrangements in British Burma were organised under a Director General under the control of Government of Burma while the postal arrangements of Aden were taken over by the Colonial Office.[68] Thus India Post has the privilege of nurturing the budding modern postal systems in its neighbourhood..

Foreign Postal Facilities

Prior to 1874 AD the charges upon foreign letters were chaotic. Separate agreements were negotiated with each country regulating the payments to be made on letters, newspapers, etc., for delivery in that country and on those in transit for other destinations. Each country of course made the best bargain it could for itself, particularly when a costly subsidised sea service was concerned. The postage charged was built up of the sum of the various terminal and transit rates and thus not only were the rates to each country different but there were different rates to the same country according to the route selected. The postage was paid sometimes by the sender and sometimes by the addressee and sometimes shared between them. Each mail was of almost incredible complexity, including a dozen or more separate calculations of debits or credits, each on an entirely different basis; some in ounces and some in grammes, it is not surprising that letters were often delayed while the calculations were being made.[69]

The foundation of the modern international postal system is the Postal Union Convention, which was the outcome of the first Postal Union Congress held at Berne in 1874 AD.[70] Under this treaty of 1874 AD the whole of the States of Europe, the United States of America, and Egypt formed themselves into a General Postal Union the pre-cursor of Universal Postal Union for reciprocal exchange of correspondence and agreed to adopt low and uniform rate of postage for all correspondence despatched from one state to another.[71]

British India was admitted to the General Postal Union (now known as Universal Postal Union) with effect from 1st July 1876 AD.[72] A meeting of the Congress for the revision of the Convention usually takes place every five or six years and is attended by delegations from the signatory powers which now include every nation of the civilised world. [73]

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67. ARPO 1890-91, p.2. 68. ARPO 1937-38, p.1. 69. Murray, ibid, pp.53.54.
70. Murray, ibid, p.53. 71. ARPO 1874-75, p.1.
72. ARPO 1874-75 p.1. and Acts of Universal Postal Union, Volume I, p.xi. In 1878 AD the title "General Postal Union" was changed to "Universal Postal Union."
73. Murray, ibid, p.53. and Brochure dated 20 May 1970 issued by the Department of Post India. Originally conceived as a regulatory body for the exchange of international mail, the Universal Postal Union has progressively become an organ contributing to greater international co-operation and understanding. This process could be said to have started in 1947 AD when the Executive and Liaison Committee was formed to function in between the plenipotentiary conferences of the Union which meet once in five years. This Committee, in addition to attending to the administrative functions, was entrusted with the task of carrying out technical studies for the benefit of the member countries of the Union. Since one of the objectives of the Union is the improvement of the postal services, the importance of this aspect of international co-operation was quickly realised with

Foreign Letter Post

Postal articles exchanged in the Foreign Post are broadly divided into two categories viz., Letter Post and Parcel Post. The term "Letter Post" applies to the Letters, Postcards, Printed Papers (including books and Registered Newspapers) small packets and Literature for the Blind. "Aerogrammes" are also included in the Letter Post, but there is no class of articles in the surface post corresponding to aerogrammes.[74]

One of the great reforms initiated by the original Convention and completed by the Congress of Paris in 1878 AD was to fix at a uniform figure the postage rates chargeable on each class of correspondence passing between the contracting states, ie., 2 1/2d. for letters, 1d. for postcards, and 1/2d. for printed matter.[75]

The Convention empowers countries to form "restricted Unions" (inter se) for the purpose of "improving Postal relations", a phrase which was expanded at the Washington Congress of 1897 AD to cover reductions of postage rates. This power was invoked in 1898 AD to establish the Imperial Penny Postage scheme. British India along with other British Colonies was benefited under this scheme. Penny Postage Scheme was extended ten years later to include the United States also.[76]

There are two main Agreements executed under the auspices of the Universal Postal Union ie., the Letter Post Agreement and Parcel Post Agreement. Letter Post Agreement is binding on all the 169 countries of the Union where as the Parcel Post Agreement is optional and exchange of mails with the member countries is regulated by its provisions. but exchange of parcels with the countries which are not parties to this Agreement is governed by means of Special Bilateral Agreements.[77]

'SAL' Service

A new service called Surface Air Lifted-service from India to foreign countries known as 'SAL" was introduced with effect from 1st April 1993 AD. Under this service in the country of origin and in the country of destination, the mail is dealt as a surface mail but it is carried between the two countries by air with reduced priority. The rates of postage on printed matter including newspapers, books, and sample and small packets from 20 grammes to

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the result that a separate body for carrying out technical studies on postal matters, called the Consultative Committee for Postal Studies, was formed in 1957 AD This Committee had been carrying out studies on technical,
economic and operational aspects of postal services. The subjects vary from mechanisation of postal services to ascertaining the requirements of developing countries for modernising their postal services. As a natural corollary, the Universal Postal Union has also taken an active interest in technical co-operation and one of the aims of the Union enshrined in its Constitution is development of International Technical Co-operation.

[74] Clause 6 of Post Office Guide Part II and Rule 3 of Foreign Post Manual. All categories of letter post items other than Letters and Postcards are generally referred to as other articles (Autres Objects") abbreviated to "A.O". Similarly letters and postcards are generally termed as L.C. (Letter et Cartes) abbreviated L.C.). Although the term A.O. includes newspapers, the abbreviation JX (for Journaux) is used when it is necessary to distinguish newspapers and periodicals (on Labels of bags) from other categories of A.O. articles.

[75] Murray, p.54.

[76] Muray, ibid, p.55. The penny later became three-halfpence.

[77] Rule 1 of Foreign Post Manual.

2 kilograms of weight and when sent in a bulk bag up to 5 kilograms , the printed matter is charged at different rates. [77a] Inland rates are applicable to articles sent under 'SAL' service for Bhutan and Nepal, for APPU countries they are cheaper and for Pakistan they are still cheaper and for other countries of course the prescribed rates as applicable.

Inland rates of postage are applicable on postal articles viz., letters, single postcards, printed papers including Newspapers and Books, Registered Newspapers and small packets (sample and small packets) for Bhutan and Nepal. The airmail articles addressed to APPU (Asian Pacific Postal Union) member countries except Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal, international surface postage rates, applicable to UPU member countries (and not surface postage rates of APPU member countries) together with airmail surcharge, is levied. Rates of airmail postcards and aerogrammes are the same for APPU member countries (except Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh) as for others. [77b]

Foreign Parcel Post

The P.& O. Company may almost claim to have initiated the Foreign Parcel Post system, for it had provided the public with a parcel service between Great Britain and the East ever since the Company was founded. In 1855 AD, the British Post Office made an agreement with the P.& O. for an Indian and Colonial Parcel Post Service, which, after some years working, they took over so far as parcels up to 11 lbs. in weight was increased in 1924 AD to 20 lbs.[78] In 1871 AD, when Mr. Monteith, the Postmaster General for India, who had been much interested in the Parcel Post System carried on in Germany and Switzerland, determined to initiate an analogous system in India and between India and his country (Great Britain), he applied to the P.& O. to assist him in carrying out the plan and the Directors at once consented, although it involved a sacrifice of the Company's own service which had become a fairly lucrative one.[79]

In 1874 AD the 'Overland Parcel Post", a system under which parcels could be exchanged between Great Britain and India through the agency of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company on the one side and the Indian Post Office on the other was commenced. The British Post Office had no concern with the arrangement.[80] The Foreign Parcel Post was extended to United States of America in 1900 AD.[81]

The Parcel Post Agreement recognised various categories of parcels besides the ordinary parcel. The ordinary parcel is the one which is not subjected to any of the formalities prescribed for the other categories, while an insured parcel is one which entails insurance of its worth. The following are the other categories of the parcels :

(a) Express Parcels
(b) Parcels Free of Charge
(c) Cash on Delivery Parcel
(d) Fragile Parcel
(e) Prisoner of War or Internee Parcel

[77a] The Gazetted of India dated 05th March 1993, p.3.
[77b] The Gazetted of India dated 23 October 1991, pp.7-11.
[78] Union Postale, 1927, p.398.
[79] Union Postale, 1927, p.398.
[80] ARPO 1873-74, p.4.
[81] Hamilton, ibid, p.180.

(f) Cumbersome Parcels
(g) Service Parcel

India does not exchange Express, Fragile and Cumbersome Parcels with any Administration.[82] International Speed Post Service for an assured delivery at the destinations outside the country under the stipulated time was introduced.

International Merchandise Speed Post

International speed post service for "documents only" was introduced with the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Hongkong from Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and New Delhi with effect from 1st August 1986 AD.

International merchandise speed post was introduced with effect from 15th April, 1988 AD. Under this service, all articles other than those for which insurance is compulsory can be sent as merchandise speed post items. Up to 1992 AD Speed Post links stood established with 61 countries.[83]

Air Mail Service

The air mail post card service at an inclusive charge of 4 annas per post card which existed with Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State, was extended to other countries in Europe, Canada, United States of America, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq, Sian, French Indo-China, the Malay States, the Strait Settlements and the Dutch East Indies.[84]

In 1937 AD, the Empire Air Mail Service which was under the consideration of His Majesty's Government and different postal administrations of the Empire for the last 3 years was introduced. Under this scheme all first class mails, that is to say, letters and postcards and all other postal articles paid at the letter postage rate as well as money orders are carried exclusively by air between the participating countries without any air surcharge. All second class mails such as printed papers, business papers and sample packets, insured boxes and parcels are carried solely by surface routes. The scheme commenced operation with effect from the arrival of the first plane with All-up mails in Karachi on the 27th February, 1938 AD at first with an accelerated service four times a week and later five times a week.[85]

The "All-up" air mail scheme which had been in operation for just over 1 1/2 years had to be suspended as soon as war was declared against Germany.[86] With the suspension of the Empire Air Mail Scheme ordinary first class mails which used to be carried by air without any surcharge, for and from countries that participated in the scheme were diverted by the surface route and air conveyance was permitted only to surcharged correspondence.[87]

In July 1945 AD, arrangements were made for the conveyance of surcharged public air mails by certain special air services operating daily on the various routes in India. From July, 1945 AD ordinary civilian air mails from the United Kingdom for India, which were previously carried partly by sea, were given "All-up" transmission. In the reverse direction, such transmission was

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82. Rule 203 of Foreign Post Manual. 83. ARPO 1988-89, p.30. 84. ARPO 1932-33, p.8.
85. ARPO 1937-38, p.2. 86. ARPO 1939-40,p.4. 87. ARPO 1939-40,p.4.

already in force.[88]

From July,1946 AD, air mails for Saudi Arabia, which were formerly forwarded by air to Jerusalem only (and onward by surface route) were forwarded throughout by air.[89] From March, 1947 AD a similar acceleration was also afforded to air mails for Morocco which were forwarded via the United Kingdom by air throughout, the former transmission being by surface route from Egypt.[90]

Direct air parcel service originally introduced from India to United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Egypt, Switzerland, Australia, Afghanistan, and Ceylon was extended to Indonesia, Italy, Malaya and East Africa in 1953 AD.[91] With effect from 7th November, 1953 AD the route of Indo-Afghanistan service was changed from Bombay-Karachi-Zahedan-Kandhar-Kabul to Delhi-Amritsar-Lahore-Kabul-Kandhar and as a result of this the air parcel rates to Afghanistan were reduced.[92]

Collection of Customs Duty

Customs duty due on articles received by the foreign post and delivered in India is collected by the post office. For the purposes of bringing these sums into account, the postage stamps overprinted with the words "Postal Service" were introduced with effect from 1st April 1895 AD. The stamps were not sold to the public, but postmasters only were authorised to purchase them from the Treasury. The use of these stamps was discontinued in 1907 AD. Customs Revenue stamps came to be issued separately. Besides the letter and parcel services, foreign money order, value payable and insured services also came to be provided under UPU conventions.

Foreign Money orders

Inward Money Order system to India from Foreign countries is available with reference to 18 countries as in 1989 AD. They are United Kingdom, France, Malta, Kuwait, Alger, Sweden, Netherlands, Denmark, Malaysia, Mauritius, Ireland, Malawi, Italy, South Africa, Switzerland, Federal Repubic of Germany, Canada and Singapore.[94]

Apart from foreign money order system a system known as "British Postal Orders" was introduced for the benefit of the British troops, and arrangements were made for the sale of these British Postal Orders through regimental vendors.

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88. ARPO 1945-46, p.2. 89. ARPO 1946-47, p.3. 90. ARPO 1946-47, p.3.
91. ARPO 1953-54, p.30. 92. ARPO 1953-54, p.30.

93. Narasimhan, R., Hand Book on Foreign Postal Opeations, pp. 119-122. Member countries of the APPU are Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Malaysia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanks, Singapore, Thailand, Maldives, Papua (New Guinea) and Naurau (Republic).

94. Narasimhan, ibid, p.81.

British Postal Orders

In 1884 AD, a special system known as the "British Postal Orders", for the remittance of small fixed amounts was adopted in India. The British Postal Orders of 14 denominations ranging from 1 s to 1$ were offered for sale to the public in India through post offices. These orders were payable in the United Kingdom, Gibraltar and Constantinople and provided a convenient means of remittance of small sums from India to Great Britain.[95]

The British Postal Orders purchased in India which hitherto had been payable only in the United Kingdom and in certain British Post Office agencies abroad were in 1905-06 AD made payable also in a large number of British colonies and at any post office in India. During 1930-31 AD British Postal Orders sold were available in 41 denominations ranging from 6 to 21 shillings.[96] They were finally discontinued in 1951 AD. The traffic figures of the business on this account are indicated in Table No.IX.I.

The procedure adopted in the post office for providing the above foreign postal facilities ie., the Foreign Post Operations of India Post are discussed hereunder.

Foreign Post Operations

Foreign Post and Sub Foreign Post Offices

There are two kinds of Foreign Post Offices viz., Foreign Post Offices and Sub Foreign Post Offices. The Foreign Post Office is an "Office of Exchange" in which the work of assessment of Customs duty on Foreign Mails is also carried out. Foreign Post being an Office of Exchange deals with all incoming and outgoing sea mail and air mail articles including parcels and packets. It also functions as an intermediary office for closed Surface Transit Mails. Foreign Money Orders are also handled in Foreign Post Offices.

There are four Foreign Post Offices in India Viz., Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. Bombay Foreign Post Office is a separate Circle headed by Controller Foreign Mails in the rank of Senior Administrative Grade, while the other Foreign Post Offices are controlled by the officers of the rank of Junior Administrative Grade ie., the Directors of Postal Services and they are under the respective heads of the circles ie., the Chief Postmasters General of the concerned circle.[97]

Sub Foreign Post Office is not an exchange office. It is not empowered either to close or send direct bags to and from Foreign countries. It also does not function as an intermediary office for closed surface transit parcels. However, Cochin Sub Foreign Post Office receives

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[95] L'Union Postale,1885, p.130, ARPO 1884-85, p.3. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.1549-1559 of October 1884, p.1.

[96] ARPO 1930-31, p.17.

[97] Narasimhan, ibid, p.1.

PLATE 13

UNITED NATIONS THEMES

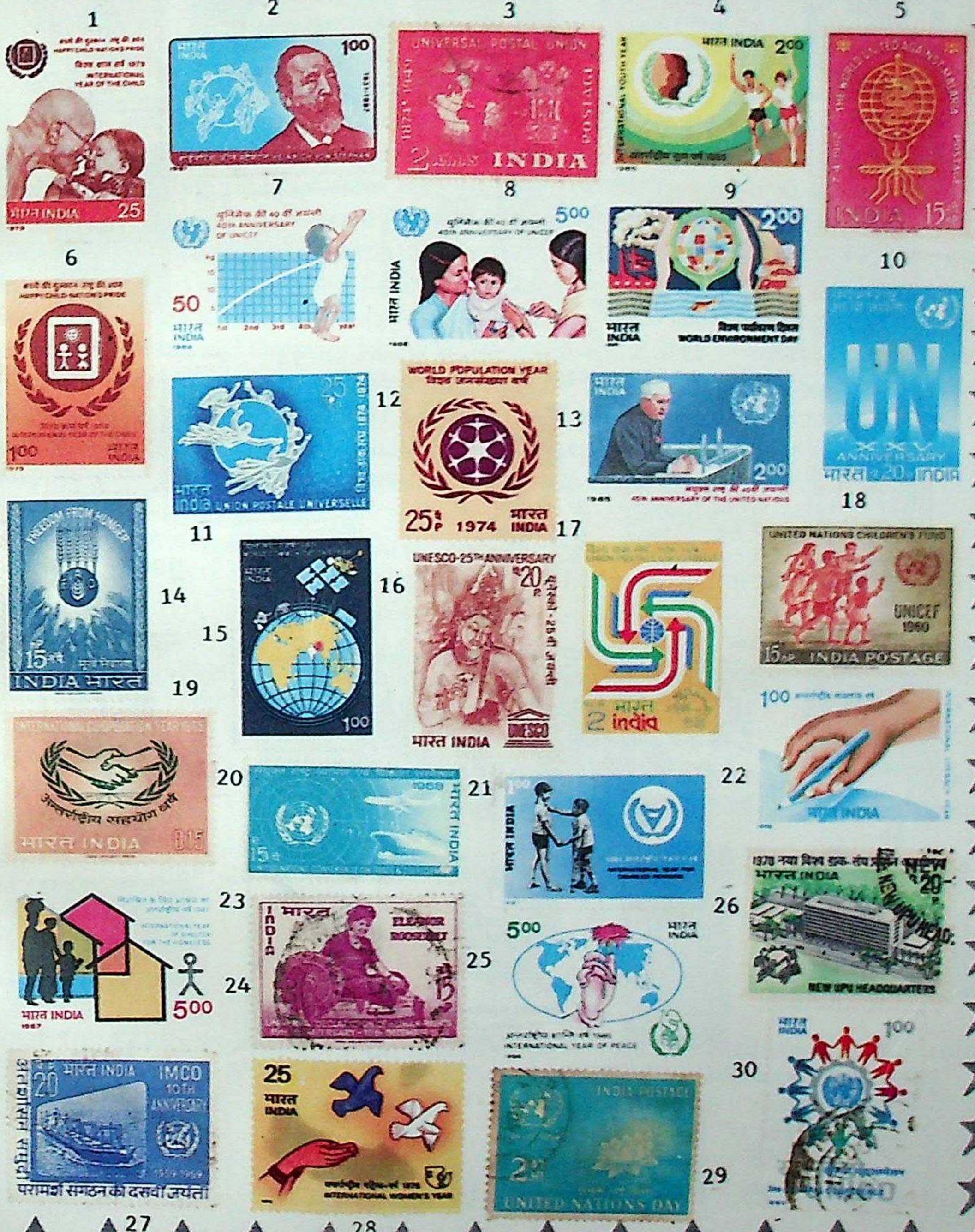
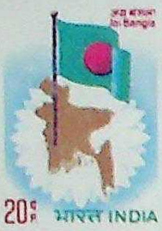
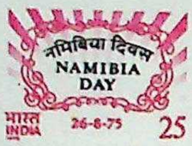

1
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD
भारत INDIA 25
2
1.00
3
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION
INDIA
4
भारत INDIA 2.00
5
INDIA 15
6
HAPPY CHILD NATION'S PRIDE
1.00
7
40th ANNIVERSARY OF UNICEF
50
भारत INDIA
8
40th ANNIVERSARY OF UNICEF
5.00
भारत INDIA
9
2.00
भारत INDIA
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
10
UN
XXV ANNIVERSARY
भारत 20 INDIA
11
25
1874-1974
भारत INDIA
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
12
WORLD POPULATION YEAR
विश्व जनसंख्या वर्ष
25 P 1974 भारत INDIA
13
2.00
1965
20th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
14
FREEDOM FROM HUNGER
15
INDIA भारत
15
1.00
16
UNESCO-25th ANNIVERSARY
20 P
भारत INDIA
UNESCO
17
2
india
18
UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
UNICEF 1960
15 nP INDIA POSTAGE
19
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग वर्ष
भारत INDIA 0.15
20
1969
15
भारत INDIA
21
1.00
भारत INDIA
22
1.00
भारत INDIA
23
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS
भारत INDIA
1987
5.00
24
भारत
INDIA
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
15
25
5.00
भारत INDIA
INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF PEACE
26
1970
भारत INDIA
20
NEW UPU HEADQUARTERS
27
भारत INDIA
IMCO 10th ANNIVERSARY
20
परामर्श संगठन की दसवीं जयंती
28
25
भारत INDIA
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR
29
INDIA POSTAGE
2
UNITED NATIONS DAY
30
भारत INDIA
1.00

PLATE 14

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

1

Joi Bangla
20p
भारत INDIA

2

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NAMIBIA DAY
भारत INDIA
26-8-75
25

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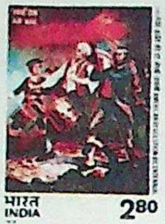
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2.80

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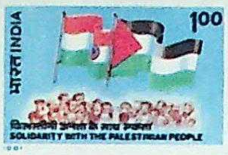
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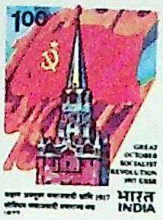
SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

5

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GREAT OCTOBER SOCIALIST REVOLUTION 1917 USSR
भारत INDIA

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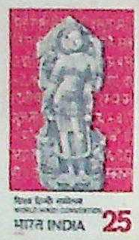
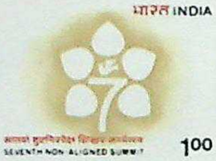
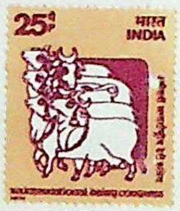

विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन
WORLD HINDI CONVENTION
भारत INDIA
25

7

भारत INDIA
SEVENTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT
1.00

8

25p
भारत INDIA

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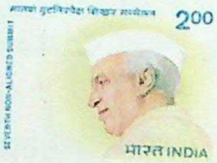
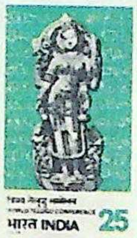
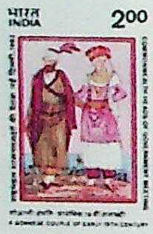

2.00
SEVENTH NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT
भारत INDIA

10

विश्व तेलुगु सम्मेलन
WORLD TELUGU CONFERENCE
भारत INDIA
25

11

भारत INDIA
2.00

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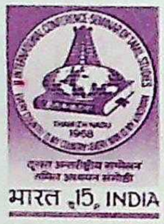
THANJAVUR TAMIL NADU 1968
भारत 15p INDIA

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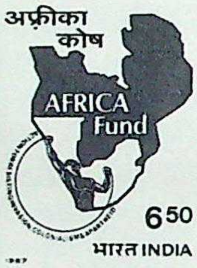
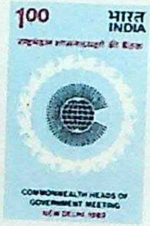

अफ्रीका कोष
AFRICA Fund
6.50
भारत INDIA
1987

14

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COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING NEW DELHI 1983

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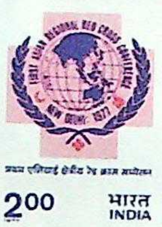
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भारत INDIA

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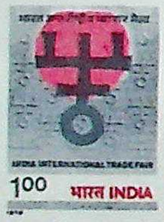
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भारत INDIA

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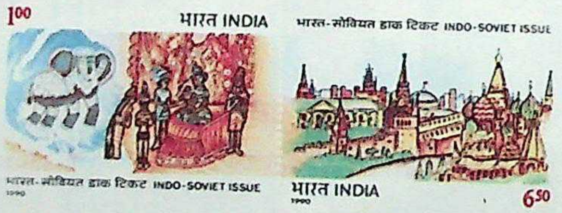
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भारत INDIA
भारत-सोवियत डाक टिकट INDO-SOVIET ISSUE
भारत-सोवियत डाक टिकट INDO-SOVIET ISSUE
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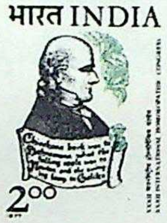
6.50
1990

18

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19

INDIA POSTAGE
15P

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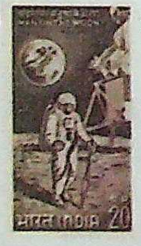
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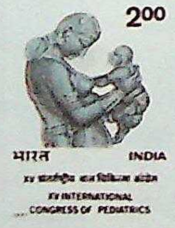
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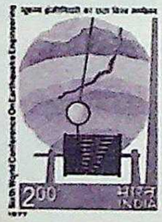
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1977

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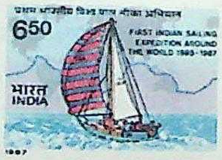
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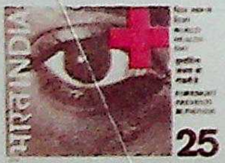
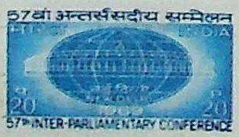
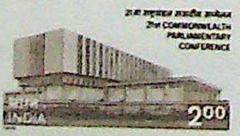
FIRST INDIAN SAILING EXPEDITION AROUND THE WORLD 1985-1987
भारत INDIA
1987

24

भारत INDIA
25

25

57वाँ अन्तर्संसदीय सम्मेलन
20
20
57th INTER-PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

26

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भारत INDIA
2.00

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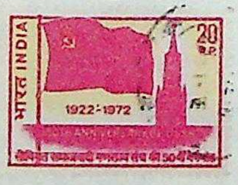
भारत INDIA
20 P.
1922-1972

the bags directly from Doha as a special case. The work of assessment of Customs duty on Foreign Mails is only carried out in Sub Foreign Post Offices. Sub Foreign Post Offices are opened mainly for the convenience of senders/addressees who may be required to present documents etc., for the release or despatch of their foreign articles. The Sub Foreign Post Offices are located at Ahmedabad, Cochin, Bangalore, Jaipur and Srinagar. Besides these, the Patna R.M.S. exchanges the mails meant for Nepal and Bhutan.[98]

Foreign Post Offices make direct despatches of letter and parcel mail articles to the foreign destinations for and from which direct bags are prescribed. For the rest of the countries, the mails are exchanged under "Open Transit" or A 'De' couvert system.[99]

Inward Mails

All the incoming mails received either by sea, air or land are opened and checked in the offices of Exchange ie., the concerned Foreign Post Offices. Then the inward foreign parcels and packets received from Foreign countries are forwarded to the offices of the Customs Examination Department (Parcel) (C.E.D. (P)) in the Office of Exchange ie., the Foreign Post Office for their examination and levying customs duty if any. Parcels/packets, the contents of which have violated Indian laws are confiscated by the Customs staff functioning in the C.E.D. (P) Department. Similarly letter mail bags contained Detained Registered/Insured and Ordinary letters are received in C.E.D. (L) Department of Exchange Office for detailed customs examination. Thereafter the inward foreign parcels received at the Foreign Post Offices are sorted and despatched to the concerned Foreign Post or Sub Foreign Post Office as per the jurisdiction they serve. The particulars of Foreign Post and Sub Foreign Post Offices and the jurisdiction they serve are as follows :

(a) Bombay Foreign -	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Hyderabad City, Secunderabad City, Dharwad, Karwar, Bhatkal and Belgaum District.
(b) Madras Foreign -	Tamilnadu, Pondichery, Andhra Pradesh, except twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
(c) Calcutta Foreign -	West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur.
(d) Delhi Foreign -	Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh.

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[98] Rule 4 of Foreign Post Manual.

[99] Rule 4 (g) of Foreign Post Manual. Articles enclosed in a bag for a country other than that to which the articles are addressed are said to be forwarded A 'de' couvert. These are also referred as mails sent in "Open Transit".

(e) Ahmedabad Sub Foreign - Gujarat State.
(f) Bangalore Sub Foreign - Karnataka State except North Canara.
(g) Jaipur Sub Foreign - Rajasthan State.
(h) Cochin Sub Foreign - Kerala.
(i) Srinagar Sub Foreign - Jammu and Kashmir.

Parcels in respect of which instructions have been furnished for abandonment in the event of non-delivery, are received in the Office of Exchange for disposal. Such of the abandoned parcels as are charged with customs duty are made over to the Customs Department for sale by public auction and forward the other abandoned parcels to the Returned Letter Office for disposal.[100]

The letter mail bags, registered bags and insured bags containing articles posted in other countries which are deliverable in India are received in the Foreign Post Offices.[101] If any article containing prohibited goods is found, the same is sent to Customs Examination Department (Letter Mail) for detail checking by Customs. All inward foreign letter post items containing partly prohibited and partly non-prohibited goods are got separated by customs and non-prohibited substances are forwarded to destination.[102] All foreign post parcels and packets received from foreign countries are forwarded to the offices of Customs Department for their examination and levying customs duty, if any. Parcels/Packets, the contents of which have violated Indian Laws are confiscated by the customs staff functioning in this department.[103] After sorting separate bags are closed and sent to Town Delivery offices, Post Offices and Railway Mail Service Offices in different parts of the country for disposal. All ordinary as well as registered articles containing or suspected to contain dutiable goods are, however, detained for Customs examination. After they are assessed for customs duty and released by Customs, they are handled like registered articles. [105]

The Air Port Sorting Offices situated at the Air Ports opens the air parcel bags addressed to the Office of Exchange at the same station which performs work relating to parcel and pick out and despatch parcels deliverable in the areas served by the Office of Exchange of other stations. [106]

Outward Mails

Ordinary letter mail articles i.e., postcards, letters, printed papers, small packets, blind literature and aerogrammes (returned to senders) duly closed in the bag are received in the Exchange Office from various post offices and Railway Mail Service offices for onward transmission to the country of destination and similarly registered letters and insured letters are also received in the Exchange Office for onward transmission duly entered in the registered list and closed in the bags.[107]

All articles for despatch abroad are sorted according to the outward sorting list issued by the Director General, Department of Post India. The ordinary articles which can be bundled are classified by size standardised items and other items and bundled according to the categories viz., paid letters and postcards, newspapers and periodicals, other A.O. items

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100. Rule 272 of Foreign Post Manual. 101. Narsimhan, ibid, p.42.
102. ibid, p.43. 103. ibid, p.50. 104. Rule 57.58.64.65.66.71 and 72 of Foreign Post Manual.
105. Rule 83 of Foreign Post Manual. 106. Narasimhan, ibid, p.103.
107. Rule 13 and 14 of Foreign Post Manual. 108. Rule 15,16,17,19 and 21 of Foreign Post Manual.

(i.e. printer papers and small packets), Unpaid and insufficiently paid articles and postal service articles and paid redirected and missent articles, each in separate bundle. Detailed sorting according to outward sorting list is done as per the following lines viz., United Kingdom, East Africa, South Africa, Continent (Europe), Australia and Far East, Arabian Gulf, Aden and Egypt, United States of America and Canada.[108]

Undutiable airmails are handled directly at Air Port Sorting Offices viz., Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay without the intervention of the Foreign Posts. Articles containing dutiable goods in Registered letters and Insured letters or even in ordinary letters are sent to the concerned Foreign Post Office for detailed Customs-examination.[109]

Mails coming from foreign countries either through container or as break-bulk mail bags by ships are received by the Foreign Post Office Bombay. In Madras and Calcutta Foreign Posts mail through container or break-bulk are collected by the postal staff at the port itself.[110] Outward surface parcels received in Foreign Post Offices of the country are sorted destination country-wise, reclosed and kept ready for despatch at the time of availability of sailing.[111] Transport Cells in the main Sea Mail Exchange Offices of Foreign Posts, viz., Bombay, Calcutta and Madras deal with all the outgoing sea mail bags. Closed surface transit mail bags where prescribed are despatched by the Foreign Post Office concerned to the Foreign Postal Administration that are members of the Universal Postal Union. [112] Air mail correspondence which is to be returned to the country of origin is returned by surface route. [113] Air mail bags received at one office of exchange addressed to another Office of Exchange in India are forwarded immediately by connecting air services.[114]

Air mail is handed over to an air carrier of the airport. A separate delivery bill is prepared for each air port of the country at which the mails are to be handed over to a postal administration. This airport for which the delivery bill is prepared might be of the point of destination or at a point where the mails are to be transferred to a different air service.[115]

The increase in the traffic of various foreign postal facilities provided by India Post have influenced in perfection of its Foreign Post Operations. Through its well-knit network of Foreign Post Offices in this vast country and the sea and air routes explored and developed over a period of time, the India Post has been able to provide facilities for communication with different parts of the globe. The foreign postal facilities so developed were utilised by the Armed Forces as well through the network of Field post offices. For providing postal service to the troops, India Post has developed a perfected system viz., the Postal (Army) Service over a period of time and the same is narrated in the ensuing chapter.

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109. Rule 92 and 93 of Foreign Post Manual.
110. Narasimhan, ibid, pp.32-35.
111. Narsimhan, ibid, p.60. In Bombay Foreign Post office, the bags so prepared are despatched on the following lines viz., Marseilles, West Germany, United Kingdom, United States of America, Far East, South Africa, Continental (Europe) and Persian Gulf.
112. Rule 201 and 210 of Foreign Post Manual.
113. Rule 98 of Foreign Post Manual.
114. Rule 18 of Foreign Post Manual.
115. Narasimhan, ibid, p.96

------------------ *Chapter Ten* ------------------

POSTAL (ARMY) SERVICE

Postal (Army) Service popularly known as 'Army Postal Service (APS)' has a colourful history. The history of APS is in other words is the account of the three aspects connected with it. First, the chronicle of the Indian postal contingents accomanying the Army Expeditions and Campaigns before the two Great Wars; the second being the account of services provided during the two World Wars and strenghening of the work procedure in Army Postal Service; and the third is the process of organisational development of APS. First of these aspects i.e., the account of postal services provided to the troops prior to the two World Wars is narrated hereunder.

Post office in Army Expeditions and Campaigns before the two Great Wars

Till 1856 AD the practice for obtaining postal facilities by the field formations of the Army had been one of self help by the Army and cooperation from post office. At the headquarters of all the field officers, a staff officer was appointed as postmaster. He personally ran a postal agency and made arrangements for a link up with the postal network or at the closest available point. Such an arrangement lasted till the end of military operations. The post office served the Army in the settled areas, followed the flag in the newly conquered territories and quickly set up its regular offices.[1]

The first Field post office was organised in 1856 AD to accompany the Persian Field Force to Bushire. The postal duties performed by the post office are basically, the despatch and delivery of letters, packets and newspapers. The Field post office which followed expeditions of South Persia in 1856 AD was accompanied by a regular postal staff of two clerks and one interpreter and 4 peons. The office carried a stock of newly introduced adhesive postage stamps, a standard Bombay type cancellor, and circular name and date stamp of the pattern then used in Bombay city. Ultimately 3 Field post offices were established, the first at Bushire in December 1856 AD, the second at Mohamera (the present Khorram Shahr) in March 1857 AD and the third on the island of Kharag in June 1857 AD. Exchange of mails with Bombay was no problem as a member of naval, Government (packets and transport) ships sailed between Bombay and Persian Gulf.[2]

In the mutiny the post office materially assisted the military authorities by the quick carriage of troops and munitions by its tonga dak, bullock train and dak agencies. A force of 18,000 men were transported at the rate of 100 a day from the rail head at Raniganj to the bases at Banaras and Allahabad.[3] Then the total strength of the Army of East India Company stood around 2,50,000.[4] At various times during the mutiny letters of Punjab,

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[1] Virk, Brig, D.S. Army Postal Service and Philately, pp.47,48,58. In 1778 AD the Commander-in-Chief was authorised to employ Qasidas (couriers) or send "Express" for despatch of express correspondence to the Army. Ten years later commanding officers of a sizable forces on the frontiers were authorised to employ a "Dak Munshi" (postal clerk) and pay for the 'harkaras' for running the extended mail line. For small detatchments from the Army, machinery by the regular Dak route are not allowed any charge for harkaras and guides for the conveyance of letters but while moving on a route used to deliver their correspondence at the nearest Dak Station by whom they were forwarded as addressed bearing postage.

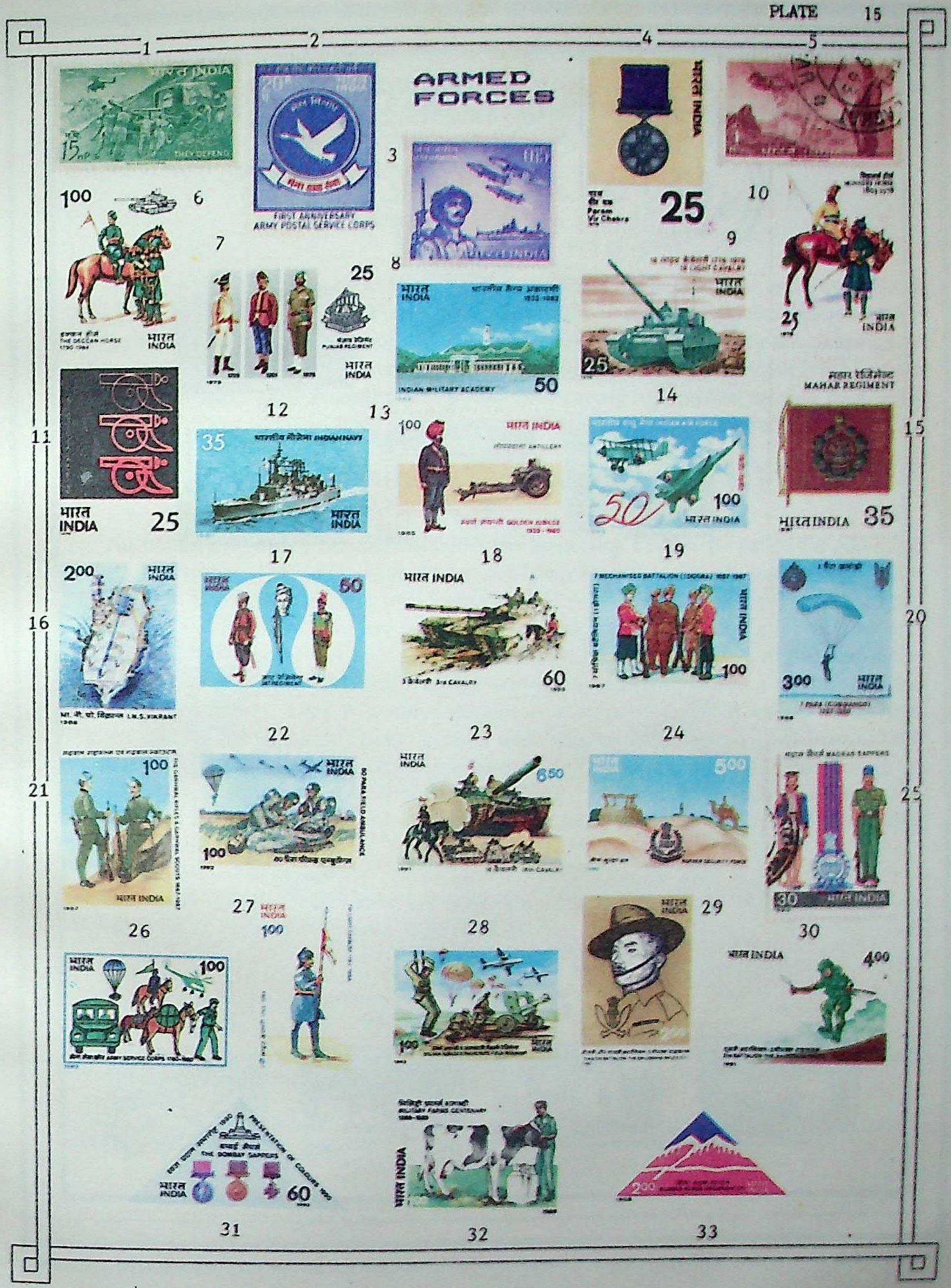
[2] Ibid, p.53 and ARPO 1919-20, p.12.

[3] ARPO 1919-20, p.12.

[4] Simon, Lt.Col.Rufus, Their Formative years, p.15.

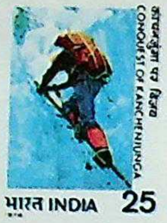
Postal (Army) Service

PLATE 15

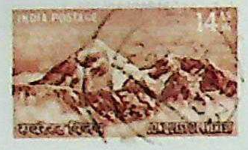

1
2
ARMED FORCES
3
4
5
भारत INDIA
THEY DEFEND
FIRST ANNIVERSARY ARMY POSTAL SERVICE CORPS
Param Vir Chakra
25
6
7
8
9
10
1.00
THE DECCAN HORSE 1790-1990
भारत INDIA
25
PUNJAB REGIMENT
INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY
50
25
MAHAR REGIMENT
11
12
13
14
15
भारत INDIA 25
35
भारतीय नौसेना INDIAN NAVY
1.00
ARTILLERY GOLDEN JUBILEE
INDIAN AIR FORCE
50
भारत INDIA 35
16
17
18
19
20
2.00
I.N.S. VIKRANT
60
3rd CAVALRY
7 MECHANISED BATTALION (1 DOGRA)
1.00
3.00
21
22
23
24
25
1.00
50 PARA FIELD AMBULANCE
6.50
18th CAVALRY
5.00
BORDER SECURITY FORCE
MADRAS SAPPERS
30 भारत INDIA
26
27
28
29
30
1.00
ARMY SERVICE CORPS
4.00
भारत INDIA
THE BOMBAY SAPPERS
PRESENTATION OF COLOURS
60
MILITARY FARMS CENTENARY
2.00
31
32
33

MOUNTAINS AND MOUNTAINEERING AND OCEANS AND OCEANIC EXPEDITIONS

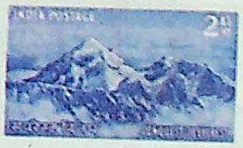
2


कांचनजुंगा पर विजय
CONQUEST OF KANCHENJUNGA
भारत INDIA
25

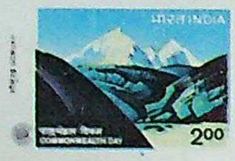
1


INDIA POSTAGE
14

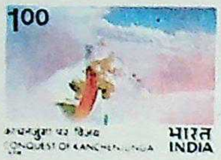
3


INDIA POSTAGE
2

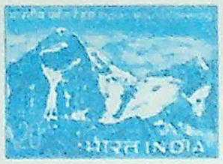
4


भारत INDIA
राष्ट्रमंडल दिवस
COMMONWEALTH DAY
2.00

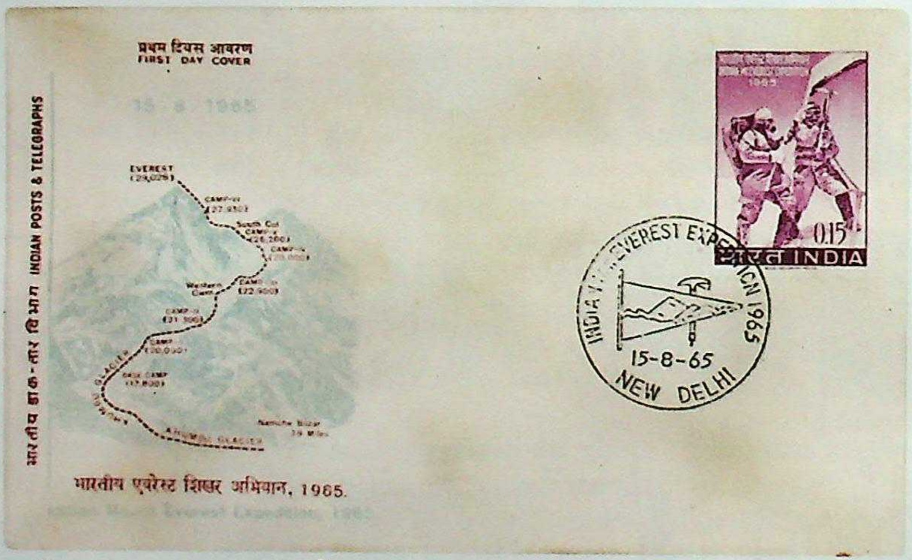
5


1.00
कांचनजुंगा पर विजय
CONQUEST OF KANCHENJUNGA
भारत
INDIA

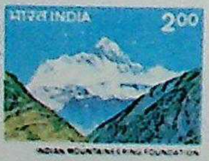
6



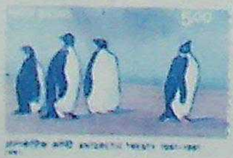
7


प्रथम दिवस आवरण
FIRST DAY COVER
15 8 1965
भारतीय डाक-तार विभाग INDIAN POSTS & TELEGRAPHS
EVEREST (29,028)
CAMP-VI (27,930)
South Col CAMP-V (26,200)
CAMP-IV (25,000)
Western Cwm
CAMP-III (22,900)
CAMP-II (21,300)
CAMP (20,000)
BASE CAMP (17,800)
KHUMBU GLACIER
Namche Bazar
भारतीय एवरेस्ट शिखर अभियान, 1965.
0.15
भारत INDIA
INDIA EVEREST EXPEDITION 1965
15-8-65
NEW DELHI

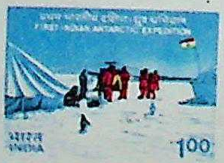
8


भारत INDIA
2.00
INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION

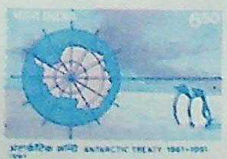
9


5.00
ANTARCTIC TREATY 1961-1991

10


प्रथम भारतीय दक्षिण ध्रुव अभियान
FIRST INDIAN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION
भारत
INDIA
1.00

11


6.50
ANTARCTIC TREATY 1961-1991

Bombay and Madras native soldiers, when serving outside their Province or Presidencies, sent to and from their families were free of Indian Postage.[5]

War in China, 1860-61 AD

Postal detachment was not sent with the Indian contingent to China in 1860-61 AD. The letters meant for native soldiers were ordered to be sorted as possible by Regiments and sent to them "On Her Majesty's Service", to the post master, Hongkong for delivery.[6] Ultimately, the correspondence of Indian troops was accorded the concessional soldiers' letter rate granted to the British soldiers.[7]

गुरुकुल कांगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय
पुस्तकालय

The Bhutan Field Force, 1864-66 AD

To eject the Bhutanese from the foot hills of Duras north of Bengal and Cooch Bihar, Duar Field Force under Bhutan Field Force remained in operation between December 1864 AD to February 1866 AD. No qualified postal official was provided during the campaign. A military officer was appointed as post master at the headquarters of the Bhutan Field Force in October 1865 AD. Mail arrangements would have caused no problem as well established regular post offices and mail lines were closed behind the bases of operation.[8]

The Abyssinian Field Force, 1867-68 AD

117787

An Indian post office detachment under the Inspecting Postmaster sailed for Abyssinia on 25th November, 1867 AD with the second detachment of the Abyssinian field force, 1867-68 AD. They reached Zolla in December, 1867 AD. A post office was opened at Zolla and rest of the postal staff was sent to serve in forward areas at Koomaylee, Sanafe, Adigrat and Antalo. Dak ponies and post mules were detailed for exclusive use of the post office and cavalry sowar rode them from postal stations to postal stations in relays. At the beginning of February, 1868 AD, arrangements were made to despatch weekly mails from England and India by steamers direct to Suez and Aden on specified days. In March, 1868 AD the local military authorities had ordered that Indian postage was not to be charged on postal articles in Abyssinia as they were not carried by runners paid by the post offices. The principle was eventually incorporated in the Army Postal Code under which inter field office mail continued to be free.[9]

The postal officials began to return from Abyssinia by the end of 1868 AD. The last batch arriving at Bombay on the 4th July, 1868 AD.[10]

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[5] Martin & Blair, Overseas letter postage from India (1854-1876 AD) p.21.

[6] ibid, p.21.

[7] Virk, Brig.D.S. Army postal Service and Philately, p.55 .

[8] ibid, pp.56,57.

[9] ibid, p.58.

[10] Martin & Blair, ibid, p.21, Virk, ibid, pp.57,58 and Geoffry Clarke, The post office of India and its story p.210.

The Perak Field Force,1876-77 AD

The Perak field force comprising of about 1500 men sent to Malaya at the end of November,1875 AD returned to India in March 1876 AD. Though no post office was sent with the Force, arrangements were made for despatch and receipt of special bags for the Force fornightly via Calcutta or Madras via Moulmein by Indian packet through Penang and monthly from Calcutta by the opium steamers.[11]

The Malta Expeditionary Force,1878 AD

When the island of Cyprus was ceded to Great Britain by Turkey the Indian contingent went to occupy it, and the postal staff was accordingly ordered to embark for Cyprus. The postal staff accompanying this Malta Expeditionary Force comprised of one postmaster, with a clerk and three peons. The Field post office opened at Malta on 27th May, 1878 AD moved to Cyprus in July and functioned there at Larnaca till it was closed on 22nd August,1878 AD. Sending mail to Malta posed no problems as it was on the direct routes of weekly mail service from India to England. From Cyprus the Austrian Lloyd Steam Navigation Company's fortnightly service to India was used. Subsequently the weekly service of Bells Asia Minor line of steamers was also used.[12]

The Second Afghan War of 1878-81 AD

The war broke out in November 1878 AD. The three pronged British invasion of Afghanistan one from Peshawar, the other from Kohat and the third from Quetta by three Independent Forces viz, the Peshawar Valley Field Force, the Khurram Valley Force and the Kandhar Field Force was completed and Kandhar and Khurram valley came under British occupation in May,1879 AD. The Khyber Frontier was moved forward to Landi Kotal.[13] The British held on to Kandhar till April 1881 AD and the greater portion of troops returned to India.[14]

Postal officials from all over India were summoned and Field post offices were attached to each Force. Special arrangements were also made on the Railway lines for disposing of correspondence for the front. There were three distinct lines of transit and yet a large proportion of the correspondence contained nothing but the addressees' names and regiments and in the case of Medical, Transport and other officers, there was nothing but the name. Officers were equipped especially at selected points for the sole purpose of collecting information about the destination and progress of officers and troops. These lists were printed and revised from day to day.[15] Mail was accordingly redirected to the right direction on the basis of daily location lists. Normal Indian postage rates were made applicable at Indian post offices in Afghanistan and presumably the soldiers were given the concessions enjoyed by them in India.[16]

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[11] Martin & Blair. ibid. p.21 and Virk, ibid, p.58.

[12] Virk, ibid, p.60 and Clarke Geoffry. The post office of India and its story, pp.211, 212.

[13] Virk, ibid, p.61.

[14] ARPO 1880-81, p.7.

[15] ARPO 1879-80, p.4.

[16] Virk, ibid, p.63.

The approximate strength of the whole force was about 45,000 fighting men and 60,000 camp followers, organising and working the military transport train between Jhelum and Peshawar, a distance of 175 miles along difficult terrain was the responsibility of the Punjab Postmaster General.[17] A similar kind of service was created between Rawalpindi and Thull.[18]

The most serious part of the operation was in the direction of Baluchistan. A horsed tonga service was established. But beyond that point all the way to Quetta and Kandhar, the Department had to rely entirely on the political authorities. A hundred carts plied daily in the bullock train service from Jhelum to Peshawar.[19] An eighty miles horse cart line was established between Peshawar and Jalalabad with a horse extension to Kabul.[20] Apart from the work done at the post office workshop at Aligarh, workshops had to be opened at Rawalpindi, Jund, Thull and other places for construction and repair of carts.[21]

The Kalahandi Expeditions,1882 AD

The Expedition was a preventive measure against a raising of the Gonds in Kalahandi, an important feudatory state in the Chattisgarh area of the Central Provinces. Three Field post offices opened in June 1882 AD to serve the troops way from Sambhalpur to Raipur were maintained till the end of the year.[22]

The Egyptian Expeditionary Force,1882 AD

In the beginning of July.1882 AD, an Expeditionary Force of 7000 men of all arms left for Egypt. A postal complement of 1 Chief Superintendent of Post Offices, 1 Postmaster, 5 clerks and 9 postmen and peons left from Bombay on the 22nd August, 1882 AD and returned there on the 31st October of the same year. The transit time for India was about 2 weeks. Special arrangements were made for the issue of the then recently introduced money orders from the Field Post Offices and parcel post from India to Egypt was also temporarily organised.[23]

The Suakin Field Force,1885 AD

The Expeditionary Force comprising of 10,517 including followers, was sent from India to Suakin (near the present port of Sudan) in February 1885 AD. The postal detachment of 1 officer, 12 subordinates and 3 followers started from Bombay and opened the Base post office at Suakin on 8th March, 1885 AD. Mails were exchanged between Egypt and India by the Government transport and P.& O. packets. A money order service and parcel post were arranged between India and Suakin. The parcel rate was fixed at 8 annas per pound. The Field post office was closed in November 1885 AD.[24]

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17. Clarke, ibid, p.211. 18. ARPO 1989-90, p.4.
19. Anand, Mulk Raj, The story of Indian Post Office, p.139. 20.Anand.ibid.p. 21. Clarke.ibid. p.211.22. Clarke, ibid.pp.212, 213 and ARPO 1882-83, p.30. 23. Clarke, ibid, p.212, Virk, ibid, pp.65, 66 and ARPO 1882-83,p.30. 24. Clarke, ibid, p.213 and Virk, ibid, p.66.

The Upper Burma Expedition,1885 AD

In 1885 AD the Field Force of 10,000 fighting men and 2000 followers, besides 1000 dhooly bearers and 3000 coolies left Rangoon for Upper Burma by steamers up the Irrawady river to Thyetmyo and thence by the land route to Mandalay. The Rangoon, Prome and Thayetmyo post offices were strengthened.

Thayetmyo post office was converted into a Base Post Office. Five Field Post Offices were also opened on board the headquarters steamers of each of the five brigades which composed the Force. The Sea Post Office working between Calcutta and Rangoon was strengthened. The Field post offices sent out from India were withdrawn in 1887 AD and the Deputy Postmaster General, Burma was asked to raise the Field post office staff locally for the 1888 AD expedition to the China Hills.[25]

The Pishin Field Force, 1885 AD

In March,1885 AD the increase in the Garrison in Baluchistan to a strength of three divisions comprising about 25,000 men and 20,000 followers necessitated postal arrangements. In April 1885 AD a head post office was opened at Rindil, in Baluchistan, which was designated as the Pishin Field Force Frontier office. The Quetta post office was strengthened. Nine camp post offices were also opened, and mails were carried to these offices by camels and sowars.[26]

The Sikkim Expedition,1888-90 AD

The Force concentrated at Pedong early in March 1888 AD. The operation lasted up to the end of 1889 AD. Pedong post office was converted into a Base Post office for the expedition and post offices were opened at Rhenock Bazar, Dolephen (later Ranglichu), Sedonchen and Gnathong on the Kalimpong-Jelep Road and at Pakyong and Gangtok on the Pedong-Gangtok road. The mail line was under the post office as far as Ranglichu and Paykong but the lines beyond were under the political authorities.

The Chinese Expeditionary Force, 1900-1923 AD

In the summer of 1900 AD a Force of 30,000 men was sent from India to form British contingent of the International Army assembled in China to capture Peking and suppress the Nationalist (Boxer) uprising. This task having completed, the main body of the contingent returned to India in July 1901 AD. The small occupation Force which remained in North China was withdrawn at the end of 1923 AD.[28] By the end of 1900 AD 168 postal officials were supplemented. The Indian Base post office was at first opened at Linkung-Tao (wei Hai wei), but was shortly transferred to Hongkong. By August 1901 AD, due to reduction of the number of troops in China, fourteen Field post offices were closed.[29]

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25. Clarke, ibid, pp.213, 214 and Virk, ibid, p.67. 26. Clarke, ibid, p.214.
27. Clarke, ibid, pp.214, 215, Virk, ibid, pp.68, 69 and ARPO 1888-89, p.1. 28. Virk, ibid, p.70.
29. Clarke, ibid, pp.226, 229.

The postage stamps sold through Field Post offices were overprinted with the letters C.E.F. ie, China Expeditionary Force. The rates of postage fixed for all purposes were those in force in India, the postage to India being reckoned at Indian inland rates.[30] This was the first occasion that a larger postal establishment had been sent with a military expedition overseas to a foreign country.

Mails for the Force were despatched by the steamers to Hongkong. From there in merchant vessels as far as Shanghai. North of Shanghai the mails were carried by transport and men on war. Later on the Chinese Imperial authorities carried Indian mails from Shanghai to Taku and back, free of charge until the post was closed by the winter ice.

Another route had then to be chosen for the North China mails and they were during winter transported from Chifu to Chaingwantao twice a week. Thus the mails were conveyed from Hongkong to Shanghai, from Shanghai to Chifu and from Chifu to Chaingwantao and thence to Tientsin. The Chief postal routes were (1) Taku to Pekin and (2) Tientsin to Shanhaikwan.[31]

A combined post and Railway Mail Service between Peking and Taku and Tientsin and Shanhaikwan was introduced to provide postal facilities to the small bodies of troops stationed at or near railway stations where there were no post offices.[32]

The Somaliland Field Force 1903-04 AD

The postal arrangements made to serve the Somaliland Field Force extended over a period of nearly two years from January 1903 AD to November 1904 AD. The strength of the Force was 3000. A postal staff consisting of 1 officer, 1 postmaster, 5 clerks and 5 followers was sent to Obbia with main Field Force. The Base post office functioned at Obbia from 19th January 1903 AD to 16th April 1903 AD. Thereafter it was opened at Berbera till the same was closed along with the last of the Field post offices on 25th November,1904 AD. Normal postal facilities were provided by all Field post offices but money order work was done only at some important offices [33]

The Tibet Mission and Occupation Force 1903-1907 AD

Plans for penetration of Tibet were set afoot in March,1903 AD. Lhasa was occupied in August 1904 AD and the Mission returned to India in November, leaving behind an occupation Force in Chumbi Valley which was withdrawn on 1st January.1908 AD. At first a number of temporary post offices and lines were opened under the control of the Jalpaiguri postal division to serve the mission. On being decided that the mission should advance into the Chumbi Valley, a Base post office was opened at Siliguri, Field post offices on the lines of Communication between Siliguri and Jelapia with the missions and the headquarters of Escort and in Tibet proper. The responsibility for the administration and supervision of Base and Field post offices was divided between two officers, a Chief Superintendent for the

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[30] Clarke, ibid, p.228.
[31] Clarke, ibid, p.227.
[32] Clarke, ibid, p.228. [33] Virk, ibid, p.70,71.

Field Division and a Superintendent for the Base Division. When the Tibet Mission withdrew to India, the field postal organisation was placed in charge of a frontier postal division and it continued to operate the Base post office at Siliguri. The Field post office at Gyantre was closed in October,1904 AD. The Chumbi Valley was evacuated by the Indian troops on 1st January 1908 AD and the Army postal staff was then disbanded.[34]

From 1888 AD onwards it became a regular feature of all military plans for frontier expedition to include the services of a Field post office. The last of such before the commencement of the First Great War was the Assam operation.[35] The Field post offices in China were, however, continued to be maintained almost up to the beginning of the first great war.[36]

The Army in peace times used civil post offices. Thus before the outbreak of war, the Indian post offices setup post offices when required by the Indian Army for both internal expedition and external campaigns and for the Indian post office to be an active service was no novelty. But the World War required all skills and endurance.

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34. Cecil Merne Putnam Cross, Op. Cit., p.185.

35. Clarke, ibid, pp.215 to 231. During the years 1885 AD to 1895 AD postal detachments of appropriate strength followed the undermentioned expeditions:

(a) The Hazara Expedition of 1888 AD
(b) The Chin Expedition of 1889 AD
(c) The Lushai Expedition of 1888 AD
(d) The Chin Lushai Expedition of 1889 AD
(e) The Ghob Expedition of September 1890 AD
(f) The Black Mountain Expedition of 1891 AD
(g) The Chin Hills Expedition of 1891-92 AD
(i) The Miranzi Expedition of January, 1891 AD
(j) The Wuntho Expedition of February, 1891 AD
(k) The Isazai Expedition of September, 1891 AD
(l) The Kurren Expedition of October, 1892 AD
(m) The Wano Expedition of August, 1892 AD
(n) The Abor Expedition of 1894 AD
(o) The Waziristan Expedition of August, 1894 AD
(p) The Chitral Expedition of March 1895 AD and Chitral Reliefs of 1897-1900 AD
(q) The Suakin Expedition of 1896 AD
(r) The Buner expedition of 1896 AD
(s) The Malakand Expedition of July, 1897 AD
(t) The Tiran Expedition of September, 1897 AD
(u) The Tochi Expedition of 1897-98 AD
(v) The Tochi Valley Expedition of 1897 AD
(w) The Swat Valley Expedition of 1898 AD
(x) The Mishmi Expedition of 1899 AD
(y) The Bazar Valley Expedition of 1908 AD
(z) The Mohmad Field Force of 1908 AD and Abor Expedition of 1911-12 AD Detailed account of the postal arrangements made during these expeditions have been narrated in the Clarke Geoffry's Work.

36. ARPO 1913-14, p.2 and Anand, Mulkraj, ibid, pp.141, 142.

First great war,1914-18 A.D,

War was declared on the 4th August,1914 AD. Various expeditionary forces of the "Imperial Reserve" stationed in India were assembled at Bombay or Karachi under various code letters (A to F).

The Indian Expeditionary Force "A".

The first to leave India was Force "A" bound for France in charge of a Lieutenant Colonel, (Director Postal Services of the Force) within 17 days of the outbreak of war. A temporary Base post office was initially established at Marseilles but was soon moved to Orleans, the base of the Indian contingent. This was moved at the end of October to Rouen, the headquarters of the British Post Office. Later it was shifted to Boulogne. This shift facilitated in delivery of mails to the Indian Corps at the Front the day after the despatch from London much faster than the British Army Postal Service.[37] The Indian Post Office suffered considerably by way of casualties. Lieutenant Bullard who was the Divisional Postal Officer was killed by a German shell at the front. By October 1915 AD one Division of the Indian Corps had left France and the another was under orders to leave. From then onwards attention of the postal authorities in India was riveted on the Mesopotamian and Turkish campaigns.

The Force initially consisted of two Corps, one with two Divisions, the 3rd and 7th and the other comprising of the 1st and 2nd Divisions. The Corps was accompanied by a Base post office "A" and 22 Field Post Offices (No. 3,7-20 and 36-42). Three more Field Post Offices (No.4,5 and 48) later arrived with reinforcement in 1915 AD.[38] Many of the Field Postmasters were the men who had grown grey in the Department and had been on service in more than one field.[39]

The two Infantry Divisions were moved in 1915 AD to Mesopotamia leaving the other Cavalry Divisions in reserve waiting to exploit the breakthrough in the front line which never came. Finally in March,1918 AD they were transferred to the Egyptian Expedition any force with 13 Field Post Offices ie, FPOs 3,4,5,7,8,15,17,18,19,20,39,40, and 42. The Base post office and the two Field post offices (at Rouen and on Orleans) remained to serve various miscellaneous Indian units.[40]

Indian Expeditionary Force "B" and "C"

The next Force to leave Bombay harbour was the Indian Expeditionary Force "B" accompanied by a postal service unit which established a Base post office at Kilindini in Kenya on 13th November,1914 AD.[41]

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[37] Sams, Lt.Col. H.A. The Post Office of India in the Great War, p.1, Proud, Edward, B, History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Vol.II, p.33.

[38] Proud, Edward, B. ibid, p.33.

[39] Sams, ibid, p.73, ARPO, 1915-16, p.4.

[40] Proud, Edward, 6, ibid, p.44.

[41] Sams, ibid, p.2.

In East Africa, the Germans were driven back by the Force. Indian post office served the amalgamated "B" and "C" Forces, in addition to the Kings African Protectorate Forces. Meanwhile large contingents arrived from England and South Africa which too came within the scope of its service. Besides the Base post office at Kilindini, numerous Field post offices had to be opened to serve the units. The Base office at Kilindini continued to meet the wants of all the Forces operating in these regions up to May,1917 AD.[42]

On the 1st June, 1917 AD a Base post office was established at Dar-es-Salam and Field post offices were opened at various points from the coast to lake Victoria, Nyanza and Uganda, a line extending over several hundreds of miles principally at Voi, Nairobi and Kisumu.[43] By December, another Base post office had to be opened at Port Amelia in the former Portuguese territory, which the Germans had evacuated a month after their occupation.

In October,1918 AD the Germans re-entered German East Africa and when the Armistice was signed, surrendered at Abercorn, North Rhodesia.[44]

The only means of conveyance of mails over long distances was to employ native coolies as the motor cars could not ply on the roads which were bad during the "dry seasons" and large portions of them were just swamps during the rains. As there were instances of the native porters wading through water chest-high with loads on their heads being carried away by the crocodiles, escorts with loaded guns to fire now and then to keep off the crocodiles were to be sent to accompany the mail carriers.[45]

In addition to these "Cross country" routes, postal communications were maintained on the Military Railway from Voi to Tanga, a distance of 300 miles and on the Central Railway from Dar-es-salam to Tabora, a distance of 800 miles.

The Base post office at Dar-es-salam and various lines of communications and Field post offices established at important trade centres on the coast viz; Kilwa, Lindikiloosa, Monogoro, Dodoma and Tabora on the Central Railway were taken the fullest advantages of the Civilians, Military and Traders.

The Army post office at Durban in April,1918 AD dealt with mails from England and articles of all classes posted in South Africa addressed to the members of the Force as troops were at that time operating in Portuguese East Africa. The Durban post office exchanged direct mail bags with the advanced Base post office at Mozambique, Port Amelia and Lindi. Prior to the 10th May, 1918 AD all mails came via Dar-es-salam, and on occasions, when shipping was not available from Dar-es-salam, inevitable delays occurred.[47]

Indian Expedition Force "D"

After the Indian Expeditionary Force "B", sailed the Indian Expeditionary Force"D" the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force (including Persia) on the 14th October 1914 AD with a Base post office and five Field post offices (No.26,27,308,309 and 314). The force arrived at Bahrain on 23rd October and stayed until the declaration of War with Turkey on 30th

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42. Sams, ibid, pp.253, 254. 43. Sams, ibid, p.255. 44. Proud, Edward, B, ibid, p.47. 45. Sams, ibid, pp.255, 256.kk. 46. Sams, ibid, p.256. 47. Sams, ibid, p.264

October. The Force first landed at Fao on 6th November. Field post office No.308 was left there as a stationary office. Postal work was carried out on Boardship. Basrah was occupied on 22nd November. The postal service rapidly dug itself in and not only served the troops but also greatly to its credit, the civilian population for within a month of arrival in Basrah a civil post office was opened on the Strand Road, Ashar, Basrah.[48] The Base post office being opened at the end of the month with the arrival of 6th Division on 14th December, accompanied by four Field post offices No.43 to 46, making nine Field post offices in all operating until March 1915 AD. The advance was resumed and Qurna was taken on 9th December. The advance was resumed up the Tigris. Amra was taken on 4th June, and Kent on 29th September, Nasimiya on the Euphrates was taken on 3rd July 1915 AD.[49]

In Mesopotamia, Field post offices had firmly stretched from Fao, at the mouth of Shat-ul-Arab. to a point South of Kent on the Tigris and to Nasariyab on the Euphrates. The number of Field post offices increased from 9 to 23 in 1915 AD on arrival of fourteen additional Field post offices (NO.32,53,54,55,58,61,68,69,316,328 and 329) by 1st December, 1915 AD, and the number of civil post offices from 5 to 10. Between Bombay and Busrah a Sea post office was also established. Later it was abolished. In August 1915 AD a Field post office was opened at Bushire for the troops deployed in South Persia (Iran). Meanwhile re-inforcement comprising of 3rd and 7th Independent Divisions arrived from France. They are accompanied by Field post offices 9,11,13,16,36 and 37 and later came additional troops from India and troops and post offices from the disbanded Indian Expeditionary Force "G" from Galli poli.[50]

During 1916 AD the Mesopotamian Campaign was in full swing and General Town Shed and his men were bottled up in hut. The surrender of Kut with a garrison consisting of 6th Independent division and 30 Brigade (from 12th division) comprising of 8070 British and Indian troops followed after a gallant resistance of 143 days. Later re-inforcement arrived. During these operations, Field post offices were established on the right and left banks of Tigris with the advancing troops. The work of postal service increased greatly with the re-inforcement beginning to pour the country. The Field post offices increased from 23 to 50 and the staff from 400 to 500 men and 10 officers.[51] Meanwhile,things were looking up in Mesopotamia, defeats were being wiped out rapidly. Kut was recovered in February,1917 AD and Baghadad in March 1917 AD. This broke the morale of Turks who were again defeated at Ramadie on the Euphrates.

In March 1917 AD Lieutenant Colonel Hughes relieved Lieutenant Colonel A.B.Thompson as Director Postal Services. During the advance on Kut the postal service kept up with the troops and the advance base was established at Aziziah. By then the Field post offices increased from 50 to 60 and the staff from 500 to 600 men. The invaluable Returned Letter Office was opened in Basrah in March and the Capture of Baghdad a civil post office was opened in the Turkish General Post Office.[52] By 17th March ,1917 AD all the country had been captured bringing the Army to the Persian (Iranian) Frontier.

In the beginning of the year 1917 AD the Turkish and German agents had been active in South West Persia to incite the tribes to British territory. Two Forces were deployed one at Bunder Abbas and the other at Bushire. A number of Field post offices were opened from

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[48] Sams,ibid,p.2. [49] Proud,ibid,p.63. [50] Sams,ibid,p.4. [51] Sams,ibid,p.5. [52] Sams,ibid, p.6.

Bunder Abbas to Shiraz, the Base post office being located at Bunder Abbas. Meanwhile,a postal unit had to be attached to Seistan Field Force which had marched to East Iran. With the complete destruction of three Turkish Army Corps, on 31st October 1918 AD Armistice with Turkey was signed.[53]

In November,1918 AD, the postal service with Mesopotamia Expeditionary Forces (M.E.F.) consisted of 24 officers,44 Inspectors and Deputy Postmasters, 104 Overseers, 826 clerks and Field postmasters and 876 followers.[54]

The Daradanellas and Salonika

After the evacuation of Gallipoli in 1915 AD Field post office No.66 moved to Salonika and started functioning at Kalamania Road. I.E.F. "G" was formed and Base post office "H" was opened at Alexandria, Egypt for this Force and four Field post offices on the peninsular, one on Mudros Island acting as an Advance Base Post Office. Mails from India were first consigned to Base Post Office "H" and then transmitted to the sorting office at Mudros. Posting in the Dardanellas were forwarded to Field post office 33 for detailed sorting. This office further consigned all articles meant for India and Egypt to the Base post office, at the end of the year the force started to be broken up.[55]

At the end of the year 1916 AD only one Field post office remained in Salonika. In October 1918 AD to serve the "Army of the Black Sea, additional Field Post offices were opened. The Base post office was transferred from Salonika to Chanak in May 1919 AD. After evacuation of Baku in August 1919 AD the field post offices were closed and staff returned to India.[57]

Indian Expeditionary force "E" and "F".

In November 1914 AD the Expeditionary Force "E" sailed for Egypt. There was 1 Base post office and 4 Field Post offices (No.29 to 31) with Force "E'and 1 Base post office and 8 Field post offices (Nos.32 to 35 and 310-313) with Force "F". These Forces were formed into two Divisions No.10 and 11 and sent to hold the Suez Canal against the Turks advancing over the desert to attack and over run the Eastern Defence of Egypt.[58] On 2nd February,1915 AD the Turks were defeated and driven back into the Desert Sinai. In the meantime on 25th April, the gallant landing at Gallipoli was made. The Indian Infantry Brigade deployed in this operation was accompanied by Field post office 34,which established itself at Sulva Bay. The two Base post offices under Forces "E" and "F" were amalgamated on 17th April.1915 AD under force "E". During this time the Indian Field Post offices also worked for other Forces including from Australia, Newzealand and the United Kingdom and even for a time the Egyptian Camel Corps.[59] With bulk of the Indian Forces leaving for Mesopotamia during 1915 AD only 9 Field post offices (one Base post office and Field post offices no.14,29,35,70,99,311,312 and 313) were left open in Egypt. These were all stationary offices. In the year 1916 AD the postal service in Egypt was disbanded and the service in

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[53] Sams, ibid, pp.8,9. [54] Sams, ibid, p.7. [55] Proud, ibid, p.95, and Sams, ibid, p.82.
[56] Sams, ibid, p.4. [57] Proud, ibid, p.96, and Sams, ibid, p.83. [58] Sams, ibid, p.2.
[59] ARPO, 1915-16, p.4.

Mesopotamia was increased.[60]

In Aden

Local Turk Forces in Yemen attacked Aden via Lahej at the beginning of the war and later advanced to Shaik Osman in 1915 AD Reinforcements arrived in 1915 AD and to serve them. Field Post offices were opened at Aden GPO, Shaik Osman and Peria. After pushing the Turks back a few miles the situation remained almost unchanged for the rest of the war and a field post office was opened at Lahej after Armistice.[61]

In Palestine

In March 1918 AD, the 7th Division was sent from Mesopotamia to Palestine and with it four Field post offices. The 4th and 5th Indian Cavalry Divisions from France arrived in Palestine in April with 4 Inspectors, 36 post masters, 31 followers and 14 Field post offices. Later on 3rd Lahore Division went from Mesopotamia with four Field post offices. There were in all 27 Field post offices in the front line and 18 on line of the communication and in Egypt. When the war ended and Armistice was signed on 11th November 1918 AD there was a line of Field offices stretching from the Sahara to Bosanti on the further side of Taurus mountains, one of which post offices was placed by the famous ruins of Baal Back in Syria.[62]

The year 1919 AD was a period of Demobilization. Followed by the Armistice, the Indian postal personnel had to cater to the needs of British troops who were being demobilised. Although the war ended, the operations in Eastern and Southern Iran were continued. The postal service comprising of 1 Base post office and 13 field post offices assisted the operations.[63]

Afghan war of 1919 AD

Meanwhile another War had broken out. The Amir of Afghanistan declared war on India on 25th April 1919 AD. The war was over in 10 days. But both the allies of Amir of Afghan viz; the Mahmuds and Wazirs gave a considerable trouble to the British Forces all through 1919 AD. Two Forces operated. The first one known as the Baluchistan Force and the other being the Wazir Force. Both the Forces were provided with the field postal services.[64]

In Mesopotamia, the post office of India supplied officers till 1920 AD. Fifteen officers,25 Inspectors, 1 Postmaster, 11 Deputy and Assistant postmasters,545 clerks and 609 menials assisted the Iraq Administration.[65] The Iraq post office was settling down. Meanwhile, the Arab revolt upset the Government machinery.

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[60] Sams, ibid, p.2.
[61] Proud, ibid, p.91.
[62] Sams, ibid, p.9.
[63] Sams, ibid, p.10.
[64] Sams, ibid, pp.10,11.
[65] Sams, ibid, p.11.

Arab Revolt of 1920 AD

On 1st July 1920 AD large Arab Forces destroyed the Railway bridge between Rumeitha and Diwanieh in the Hillah Area. Once again field service conditions prevailed and the post office was called upon to serve troops amounting to over two Divisions. Towards the end of September the raising subsided.[66]

Thus during the First World War, the Indian Post office worked with the overseas forces in France, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, East Africa, Mesopotamia, Aden and Persia and the post offices further served the Salonika Force which was separated from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and made an independent force for postal purposes. This latter force later came to be known as Army of the Black sea. The various Expeditionary Forces were served by the 10 Base post offices and 176 Field post offices and the number of postal officials serving in the field increased to 2261 in 1918-19 AD.[67]

The Mesopotamia Field Force was the most important of all the Expeditionary Forces served by the Indian post office, while the Egyptian Expeditionary Force and the Army of the Black sea increased in importance during 1918-19 AD. One notable feature of the Indian field postal arrangements in the Army of the Black sea is the establishment of Travelling Field Post Office for money order work with a view to providing scattered units with facilities of sending money order to their homes.[68]

The development evolved in Mail, Sorting and Delivery arrangements of I.E.F. 'E' left greater impact on the working pattern of the Field post offices and are discussed hereunder.

Working Pattern of Field Post Offices in the First World War

Mail arrangements of I.E.F.'E'

Egypt being the half way house between East and West, overseas mails from both directions arrived and were despatched by the same mail boats weekly during the first two years of War. Thereafter, due to unrestricted submarines warfare, the mail service became irregular and more belated. But with the institution of transport service for the conveyance of mails, mails could be received and despatched 3 times a week. Only one mail from the Egyptian Expeditionary Force to India was lost when the S.S. Mongolia struck a mine and sank outside Bombay.[69]

So long the operations were confined to Egypt, the mails were carried to all parts of Egypt in the vans of Egyptian postal administration and in the trucks hired from the Egyptian State Railways. Difficulties, however, began to spring up when the advance took place across the Sinai Desert. When the troops and Field post offices pushed forward and transport resources became strained, special precautions and measures had to be adopted to maintain postal contact.[70]

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66. Sams, ibid, p.11. 67. ARPO 1918-19, p.4. 68. ARPO, 1918-19, p.4.
69. Sams, ibid, p.92. 70. Sams, ibid, p.92.

The Indian Field post offices were being kept attached to Divisional and Brigade headquarters. However, when a rapid and long advance took place, Field post offices could not accompany headquarters, which would leave all such offices behind as encumbrances, but yet demanded a regular mail service. The military authorities recognised the dictum about an Army machinery on its stomach. On the other hand, the Great War had shown that the Army can not stand at ease unless it held a love letter in its hand. Supplies and mails came to be considered as inseparable and that the both should move together.[71]

As a postal conference held just prior to the advance into Northern Palestine and Syria, it was decided to adopt the above principle, viz; that as troops must be fed bodily and mentally, supplies and Field post offices were, accordingly, removed from Divisional and Brigade headquarters and located at Divisional and Brigade Refilling points. In addition to this advantage of mobility all sudden changes in the distribution of units could easily be obtained from supply officers by Field Postmaster and communicated to the Rail head office, which then circulated mails correctly inspite of constant and Kaleidoscopic changes.[72]

Sorting and Delivery Developments

Base Post Offices of I.E.F.'E'

Necessitated by the importance of bases of ports, where mails are debarked, the sorting of overseas mails was carried on Port Sayeed and Port Tewfick. The Base post office 'H' which was initially opened at Ismailia an inland town had to be transferred from that place as there was no direct outlet to connect with the mail boat for India which left to Port Said, where Base 'G' had been established since the inception of Force'E'.

Mails from India were debarked at Port Tewfick as all P. & O. mail boats and transports stopped there. On landing at Quay, they were immediately taken possession of and dealt with by the Indian sorting office on the spot, and mail matter was despatched to destination within a few hours to the furthest units, whether located on the borders of the sandy Sahara or the slopes of Asiatic Turkey.[73]

Mails for India were concentrated on the Base post office, Port Said, this being the only port in Egypt, where P. & O. and other mail steamers dropped anchor on their voyage to the East. The Base Post Office formerly handled the mail matter to and from the late Salonica Force and also those of the Black Sea Force. The centre of radiation of all overseas mails from the West was Port Said and the establishment of the Base at this port had been justified on the grounds of practicability and efficiency.[74]

Cross Post Offices

The inter-change of Divisional and Brigade mails ordinarily passes through the Divisional Sorting Office. The Divisional Sorting Office is a Cross post office for the Divisional and Brigade Field post offices of a Division. The exchange of mails between

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[71] Sams, ibid, p.93. [72] Sams, ibid, p.93. [73] Sams, ibid, p.94,95. [74] Sams, ibid, p.95.

Divisions is effected at Rail-head office acting as a Cross post office. Finally, the Base post offices and certain selected stationary offices in the back areas worked as Cross post offices for mails posted in any Field post office in their sector. In other words, cross post offices above made up bags on each other in which were consigned for final disposal all mails for units located on all Field post offices within the jurisdiction served by the particular Cross post office.[75]

The Location Book

A Location Book was introduced and supplied by the Directorate to each Field post office to ensure correct and prompt disposal of mails for units. The book is arranged according to the various branches of the Army and included every unit in the field. Against each unit was noted the Field post office which served it. A Location List is issued daily by the Deputy Director to every Field Postmaster showing revised location of units, and changes in the labelling of bags. These revisions are kept noted by the Field Postmaster in pencil in the Location Book and then the Daily Location List is destroyed by fire. A perpetual sorting list was thus maintained throughout the Force. The Daily Location List is prepared from information supplied by General Headquarters and telegraphic instructions, received from Inspectors and Field Postmasters, to be confirmed later by Field Reports sent to the Director instead of the Base Postmaster.[76]

A complete nominal roll of offices of every unit served was maintained by each Field postmaster and a copy of the same was forwarded to the Deputy Director, for embodiment in a general nominal roll prepared from this information and supplied to the Base post offices, Cross post offices and the Returned letter offices. Revised addresses were communicated by Field Postmasters in Field Reports, this information being circulated by the Deputy Director to the offices concerned for inclusion in the General Nominal Roll.[77]

During the sorting of mails, articles requiring redirection were diverted according to the latest instructions on record. Failing this, mails were despatched to the addressees unit, which then redirected the correspondence. If the unit was unable to do this, the Field post office undertook the work, and in the last resort undelivered articles had to be forwarded to the Returned Letter Office for disposal.[78]

Returned Letter Office

The Returned Letter Office gradually developed when it was found that the Base Post Office could not dispose of undeliverable articles from the records at its disposal viz, addressees' instructions and field reports. As soon as fighting or an advance took place, hundreds of casualty cases occurred, and hospital returns poured in daily with lists of admissions, evacuations and discharges. To sort out these heterogeneous lists where names repeated themselves until a patient left a hospital, and also to collect information regarding new arrivals in and departures from the country required a special organisation with a trained staff. The Returned Letter Office was, therefore, instituted at Alexandria as novel lines, as distinct from that in vogue at the Army post office. Experience proved that so far as British and Indian Officers were concerned, the Index Card system could be safely introduced and kept up to date. But it was not practicable to maintain this as regards the lower ranks whose whereabouts could not be traced with definite certainty from the records maintained by the D.A.A.G. 3rd Echelon. The Returned Letter Office was ordered to work in close connection with the 3rd Echelon to dispose of untraceable correspondence for men.[79]

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[75] Sams, ibid, p.96. [76] Sams, ibid, pp.97,98. [77] Sams, ibid, p.98. [78] Sams, ibid, p.98.

Improvements in Delivery System

Delivery of mails continued to be made through accredited Post Orderlies of units. However, in order to fix responsibility for the loss of misdelivery of articles by Post Orderlies, a Receipt book for registered and parcel items handed over to them was introduced. On making delivery, the Post Orderly obtained the addressee's signature against the relative entry, while an acknowledgement in the book was granted by the Field post office official if an article was handed back to the Field Post Office for redirection. An immediate and appreciable reduction in complaints took place after this.[80]

Censorship

The letters posted in the field during 1914-15 AD were censored by the officers of the Indian Field Post Office. Owing to the gradual increase in the correspondence, a censor's stamp was issued to the officer commanding of each unit, who was then responsible for the censorship of mails of his men. Printed Field Post Service Post Cards did not, of course, fall within the scope of censorship, and these were supplemented later on by the issue of Green Field Service Envelopes, contents of which though ordinarily immune from scrutiny were liable to be examined at any time. Frequently, a certain percentage of all concerned correspondence was withheld and passed to specially appointed censors for re-examination. On two or three occasions general head quarters ordered all mail posted in the field be detained so that no information could filter through them to outside world until the critical period had passed. On the whole, censorship in the Field was expeditious and no great delay to correspondence ever occurred.[81]

Monetary Transactions

In 1917 AD, with the removal of restrictions under which the amount of money order which was hitherto limited only for the month of remittance, the Family Remittance Money Orders became more popular with the troops as they could accumulate their balances and remit them in a lump sum to their families. Ordinary money order service to India was also utilised largely by the troops.[82]

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[79] Sams, ibid, p.98.

[80] Sams, ibid, p.99.

[81] Sams, ibid, p.100.

[82] Sams, ibid, p.100.

Apart from the refund of money orders for various reasons to remitters in the Field, a scheme was introduced under which money orders received by the Egyptian Postal Administration from the United Kingdom or from any British possessions for payment to troops could be disbursed by Indian Field post offices without interfering with the regular system of accounts.[83]

Sale and Payment of British Postal Orders

The British Postal Orders were also sold and paid through the Indian Field Post Offices to small British and Australian detachments when the bulk of the British troops in the Southern Canal were withdrawn in May 1917 AD. Later the British Postal Orders were made available for sale at all Indian Field Post Offices throughout the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. The stock of British Postal Orders was obtained from the Director, Army Postal Service, but this advance was withdrawn at the beginning of March 1918 AD and the stock was later supplied direct from the London General Post Office.[84]

Life Insurance

From 1916 AD, Life Insurance policies became available to any member of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, whose appointment fell within the scope of the Civil Service Regulations. Eight Postal Officials and six employees of the Military Accounts Department insured their lives in the Field., in the said year.[85]

Savings Deposits

Savings Deposits varied annually according to the strength of the Force, and generally, rose before an attack when the troops were glad to be provided with the means of banking their savings. The prohibitions against withdrawals in the Field prevented more frequent deposits, as the troops preferred placing their credits with the Field Controller from whom they were able to withdraw money whenever required. Few Indian War Loan Bonds were purchased through the agency of the Indian Field Service. But owing to the lack of advertisement and limited facilities their sale was not much.[86]

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[83] Sams, ibid, pp.100, 101. For payment of Money Orders to the troops, the Indian Field Postal service acted as an intermediary between the Egyptian and Indian Army Postal service as follows:

(a) The Director, Army Postal service received money order advices from the Egyptian Post Office and he then posted direct to Military payees an authority whereby they could draw the relative amount at any British or Indian Field Post Office.
(b) If presented at an Indian Field Post Office, the amount was paid and shown as a remittance to the Base Post Office, the authority of the Director, Army Postal Service, duly receipted by the payee, accompanying the Daily Account in support of the charge.
(c) The Indian Base Post Office recouped the amount on representation of the authority at the Base Army Post Office, Port Said.

[84] Sams, ibid, p.101. [85] Sams, ibid, p.101. [86] Sams, ibid, p.101.

The temporary Indian Army Postal Organisational setup during the World War was not completely demolished till 1923 AD as the sizable Indian Forces remained on occupation duty on various fronts for various periods after the Armistice. Between 1923 AD and the out break of second great war, Field Post Offices functioned on the Indian Frontier for the Mohamand Operations in 1935 AD and the Waziristan Operations in 1937 AD. At Shanghai one Field Post Office functioned for a few months in 1927 AD.[87]

All India War Memorial at New Delhi unveiled in February 1931 AD, on the occasion of inauguration of New Delhi as the Capital of India bears the names of the postal officials also who lost their lives during the Great War whilst serving the troops on or beyond the North West Frontier and whose supreme sacrifice was not commemorated elsewhere.[88]

Second World War, 1939 - 1944 AD

In July 1939 AD when war clouds were gathering, the first of the hundred of Field Post Offices was raised to accompany a brigade to Egypt followed by others to serve in the Middle East.[89] Field Post Offices accompanied the Forces in five distinct campaigns. These were the campaigns in Egypt, in Sudan and Eritera, in Malaya and Singapore, in Iraq and Persia, in Assam, Bengal, Burma and the Far East and finally in Italy and Greece.

The Middle East Force in Egypt

In July, the summer of 1939 AD when war clouds were gathering mobilisation orders were issued to 11th Brigade to leave for Egypt. Field Post Office No.19 accompanied the Force. It was followed by many others to serve in the Middle East. A Section Base Post Office was opened at Cairo in December 1939 AD. In the Western desert, many forward Field post offices were lost during the operations, making it necessary to establish a "Postal Tracing Unit" to trace the mail received for the personnel who were either dead or missing or had lost their Brigade or their units. In May 1941 AD, Field Post Office No 5 took part in the Syrian campaign, which resulted in the capture of Damascus. In addition to the Mobile Field Post Offices, stationary Field Post Offices were established through out the Middle East Command, at Cairo, Meena Camp, Alexandria, Musa Matruh, Suez. Genefa, Moascar and Akantra in Egypt; at Tobruck and Bengazi in Libya; at Tripoli in Tripoli Tania; at Gaza Kafaibillo; Jerusalem and Haifa in Palestine, at Sidon, Beirut and Tripoli in Lebnan at Aleppo and Balbek in Syria, at Nicsia and Limmasol in Cyprus; at Rhodes and Leros in the Dodecanese; at Wadi, Halfa, Khartoum, Port Sudan and Kasala in Sudan; at Agordat, Keren, Asmara and Masawa in Eritea and at Aden.[90]

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[87] Virk, Brig, D.S. Indian Army Post Offices in the Second World War, p. ARPO 1922-23, p.14, ARPO, 1923-24, p.16, ARPO 1927-28, p.13, ARPO, 1937-38, p.18.

[88] ARPO, 1930-31, p.57.

[89] Proud, Edward, B.History of the Indian Army Postal Service, Vol.III (1931- 14th August, 1947 AD) p.12.

[90] Anand, Mulk Raj, The story of Indian Post Office, p.150.

In Sudan

Initially the Field post offices functioned only as postal agencies of the Sudan post office. As there were no mails from India and hardly any counter work was permitted, the Field post offices merely sold the Sudanese stamps and forwarded the outgoing mails to Khartoum from where they were sent by Rail - river route to the Base post office in Cairo.[91] In Sudan, the Field post offices were deployed with the forward troops at Gebit, Gederef and Butana Brigade, while the Base post office started functioning at Khartum. In January 1941 AD the Field post offices were distributed at Port Sudan, Akbara and other important lines of communications. The battle for Eritrea opened on the 19th January, 1941 AD and the Mobile Field post offices accompanied their formations. On the Gallabet, the Indian Field post offices incurred their first fatal casualty due to enemy action. Havildar K.M. Pawar, the Field Postmaster of Field post office E 603 was killed in action on 20th January 1941 AD. The account of his heroic devotion to postal duty has been narrated by Mr. Edward B Proud in his work as follows: *Havildar Pawar and his packer took shelter in a trench during an enemy air bombardment. While in the trench Pawar remembered that he had left the cash box unlocked on his table. He dashed back to the office to fetch the cash box but got a direct hit in the open and was killed on the spot. No body even mentioned him in a despatch - an unsung hero of Indian Post Office.*[92] The Indian Post Offices kept pace with the advance of troops and most of them were located in the forward area near Agordat and Keren. After the capture of Keren, Field Post Offices had to be established at Asmara, Masawa and Adowa. Though the Mobile Field Post Offices were shifted to Egypt with their Formations, a number of Indian Field Post Offices had to be retained in Sudan and Eritrea to serve the Indian and other troops stationed in that area till the end of 1943 AD.[93]

In South Asia

The entry of Japan in World War necessitated the opening of another front in Malaya and Singapore. With this move to the East, the necessity of a Base Post Office at Calcutta arose, besides the one at Bombay and the Air Depot at Karachi. A liaison officer was, however, stationed at Calcutta General Post Office till 1942 AD when the Base post office was opened there. The first two Field post offices arrived in Malaya in October,1940 AD. Later a full fledged postal contingent was sent to Malaya in January,1941 AD and the Field post offices were distributed between the Field Formations and Stationary Military Camps. When the operation started, the front line Field Post Offices at Kotah, Bahru, Alor Star and Sungnei Patani retreated with their formation and with great difficulty managed to reach Singapore safely. The Base Post Office at Penang was also evacuated to Singapore. The Field Post Offices at Serambam got a direct hit and all the staff was lost. The staff of another Field post office perished when their train was destroyed by air bombing. Quite a number of postal personnel were killed while travelling between the Base post office and their living camp at Singapore. Though there was a complete breakdown at the front arrangements for sorting at the Base post office, and for forwarding mail to the forward areas functioned normally well at Singapore.[95]

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[91] Proud, ibid, p.129, Virk, ibid, p.23. [92] Proud, ibid, p.134. [93] Anand, ibid, pp.150, 151.
[94] Proud, ibid, p.12. [95] Anand, ibid, pp.151, 152.

In Burma

During the first brush with the Japanese on 20th January 1942 AD the Field post office No.40 attached to the 16th Brigade suffered badly. It had to retreat along with other Brigade Unit after losing all its transport and most of its equipment. The Base post office in Rangoon was evacuated in one of the last ships before the fall of Rangoon. During the retreat from Burma all the Field post offices faced hardships and a number of casualties took place.[96]

In Iraq and Persia

On the 18th April,1941 AD Field post office No.48 landed at Basra. It was soon joined by many other Field Post Offices. As the build up of the Force continued, the Base post office was shifted from Margil to Ashar. In November, 1941 AD, an advance Base post office was opened at Baghdad, a section Base post office at Ahwaz. In May,1943 AD over 500 Army Post Service personnel, were put in the Field under Persia and Iraq command. Field Post offices were established at Karind, Kermashah, Harmadan, Teheran, Sultanabad, Andimisk, Ahwaz, Abadan and Khurramshahr in Persia, at Margil, Shaiba, Zubair, Mesayab, Habania, Khanaqin, Kinkuk and Mosul in Iraq and at Bahrain. Special arrangements were made to exchange mails with the troops in Persia, Iraq and the Persian Gulf.[97]

In Assam, Bengal, Burma and the Far East

In March, 1942 AD, Formations were deployed hurriedly in the Eastern frontiers of India, while others stood guard in Southern India and in Ceylon to check the Japanese advance. Base and Field post offices were raised all over the country and moved to their locations in the Eastern zone in a matter of days. Number 6 Base Post Office started functioning at Manipur Road on the 5th April 1942 AD and it was supported by a string of Field Post Offices in the Imperial area as well as in North and South Assam. Base post office No.12 was raised at Calcutta and started functioning there in June,1942 AD to support Field post offices allotted to the formation in the Calcutta and Cormilla Area. Base Post Office located at Ranchi served the troops concentrated in that area. By the beginning of 1942 AD Base post office had been established at Gauhati, Ledo and Chittagong.[98]

In Ceylon, Field post office No.74 started functioning at Colombo on 8th January,1942 AD. As the garrison was built up at important military stations like Trincomali and Kandy received mails from Base Field Post Office 74 through Ceylonese civil post offices. The Indian Field post offices had also to serve remote garrisons in the Cacos and the Maldive Islands.[99]

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96. Virk, ibid, pp.210-215.
97. Virk, ibid, pp.152, 153.
98. Anand, ibid, p.152.
99. Virk, ibid, pp.218, 220.

In Italy and Greece

After the retreat of Japanese Forces, the Forces were again shifted to Southern Europe. Italy and Greece had, by then, become the Centre of new operations and the Field post offices of the 4th Division, which had earlier moved to Tunisia from Egypt, continued to be served by the Base post office at Cairo. When the 8th Division landed at Italy in September,1943 AD the same arrangements continued and a small mail office was started at Taranto.[100]

Immediately before the arrival of the 10th Division in Italy a proper Base post office, with its own tracing unit, was opened at Bari. As the operation progressed, it moved on to Napies, and stationary Field post offices were maintained at Taranto, Bari, Benevento, Ancora, Rome, Florence, Saint Anyeto, Leghros, Genoa, Bologna and Mestre. The Indian Army Postal Organisation was gradually reduced as the troops moved out of this area and was completely disbanded in March 1946 AD.[101]

At Athens in Greece, Field Post Office No.17 was established to serve the 4th Division which had moved from Italy to Greece. The Division was first deployed over the whole country, each of its Brigades being responsible for a fairly large region, and Field post offices had to be located in Salonica, Patras and Velos.[102]

By July, 1944 AD the tide had turned and re-occupation of the enemy occupied territory had begun, with consequent liberation of the Allied personnel who had been taken prisoners of war. It was appropriate that the Indian prisoners of war, recovered from the European theatres of conflict, should be properly received and treated. A reception centre was, therefore, opened in July 1944 AD at Thatford in the United Kingdom. To provide full postal facilities and concessions for these ex-prisoners, a Section Base post office was also established.[102] At the end of 1945 AD in addition to the Field post office in the West, offices existed in Burma, Thailand, France, Indo-China, Hong-Kong, Malaya, North Bornco and N.E.I.[103]

Staff on Field Service

While during the World War-I, the strength of regular army touched 10,75,000, in World War-II, it was the all high 25,00,000 plus.[104]

37 Gazetted officers and 2911 subordinates were on field service with postal units at the end of the year 1944 AD, as compared to 33 Gazetted officers and 2460 subordinates at the beginning of the year. This number included 3 gazetted officers and 243 officials who were serving with Field postal units in Burma, Malaya, and Singapore and were prisoners of war in Japanese hands and 8 officials serving in the Middle East also became the prisoners of war in that area. The total number of casualties sustained by the Departmental employees in the second World War was 36. [i05]

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100. Anand, ibid, p.154. 101. Anand, ibid, p.154. 102. Anand, ibid, p.154. 103. Proud, ibid, p.12. 104. Semson, Lt.col. Rufus, The Formative years, p.15.
105. ARPO 1944-45, p.27.

Occupation of Japan

After the cessation of hostilities, occupation forces had to be retained in the conquered territories to prevent breakdown of transitional civil government and to help, keep law and order in those areas. India was fully represented among the British Common Wealth occupation and adequate Indian postal contingent accompanied the Force. A Base post office was established at Kure near the atom-bombed town of Hiroshima, while Field post offices, functioned at Hiro, Iwakumi, Okayama, Hamada, Hatsue, Gonago, Tattoni and Tokyo on the Honshu Island, and at Kochi, Gomen, Takamatsu and Totushima on the Shikoku Island. The Indian Occupation Forces remained in Japan till November, 1947 AD. The last number of the postal contingent left the shores of Japan for India in November, 1947 AD.[106]

Field post offices which were earlier used only in Foreign and Frontier Missions, were given permission to operate with in India wherever the army required them for the purpose of training, preparedness or actual combat. The tempo of field post office activity was stepped up accordingly. Whereas, only 70-odd Field and Base post offices had been raised in the first three years of war, their number doubled in 1942 AD and ultimately reached the peak figure of nearly 250. Their final tally was in the region of 400.[108]

Organisation of Army Postal Service

Field Post Office

Basic unit of the Army Postal Service is of course the Field post office. Each Brigade and equivalent Formation has a Field post office of its own and the Divisions, Corps and Armies have additional Field post offices for troops not included in a Brigade. Immediately behind the combat zone is the concentration of camps and deposits for re-inforcing men and material engaged in battle. Field post offices are also dotted all over this area, which is called the communication zone, and they are grouped round a Section Base post office which acts as a forward mail and sorting agency. The nerve centre of the whole organisation, the base post office is located farther back at a national communication centre, where it can work round the clock in all seasons without being disturbed by the din and turmoil of the war and communication zones.[109]

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[106] Anand, ibid, p.155.

[107] ARPO 1947-48, p.56.

[108] Virk, Brig, D.S. Army Postal Service and Philately, p.12.

[109] Virk, ibid, p.14.

The Base Post Office.

At Base post offices, the mail is concentrated censored and sorted and other postal activities are documented and accounted. For the nearby troops, the Base post offices also provide direct mail and postal facilities required by them. Some 40 such units supported the Indian and many allied Field Post Offices during the Second World War. Their numbers ran from 1 to 32 with the exception of number 26 and 27 which were allotted to the Base post offices raised by the expatriate Burma Postal Administration. Besides these numbers, three Base Post Offices carried lettered designation "A" "B" and "C" another three had place names, viz New Delhi General Headquarters Army Post Office, Kalyan Army Post Office and Army Mail Exchange office Calcutta; two more acted as the Base Depots at Bombay and Karachi; and the last two, Sea Base Post Offices and 7 Base Army Post Offices, had a mixed British Army Postal Service and Indian Army Postal Service composition. The Base post office was issued with a whole range of stamps and seals normally supplied to a civil head post office in India.[110] 56 APO and 99 APO are the names of the two Base post offices which are responsible for receiving, sorting and national communication centre, where it can work round the clock in all sea despatching mail addressed to the troops or sent by them.

Divisional Postal Unit

Towards the end of 1944 AD the Directorate sponsored a new operational establishment known as "Divisional Postal Unit" Four Divisional Field post offices were posted under it to provide additional manpower and transport for another Field post office and was put with a small headquarters under the command of a subaltern.[111]

Army Postal Directorate

When the Second World War began, a War Section was opened in the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate. But in January,1942 AD Army Postal Directorate was set up in General Headquarters with the Director in the rank of Colonel assisted by the two officers and eight clerks. At its back in February,1949 AD the Army Postal Directorate had on its posted and attached strength one Colonel, two Lieutenant Colonels, three Majors, Five junior officers and over thirty clerks. The Posts and Telegraphs Department transferred its responsibilities for the mobilization and supervision of Army post offices to the Army Postal Directorate in 1942 AD. But the War Branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate continued throughout the war to maintain active liaison with the army authorities to further the prospect and well being of its field services deputationists.[102] Among the other units and establishments that supported the work of Army Postal service, the first is the Army Postal Pay Account office.

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110. Virk, ibid, pp.87, 96.
111. Virk, Brig, D.S. Indian Post offices in the Second World War, p.8.
112. Virk, ibid, p.6.

Army Postal Pay and Account Office.

All the postal financial transactions of the Army Post Offices were controlled and consolidated by the Deputy Accountant General, Post and Telegraphs, Nagpur. The pay accounts of the officers and men of Army Postal Service were at first maintained by the Military Pay Offices but this resulted in utter confusion due to the bewilderment of Army Postal Service personnel with the military system and the unfamiliarity of army accountants with the special terms and conditions of Posts and Telegraphs volunteers. On 1st August, 1942 AD an Army Postal Pay Account Office was formed at Nagpur. It functioned there independently till November, 1947 AD. When it was merged with Posts and Telegraphs Account office.[113]

Army Postal Training School

The expansions of 1941 AD and 1942 AD dried up the pool of volunteers and the Posts and Telegraphs Department was unable to meet the demands of Army Postal Service. Postal sepoys recruited by the Army Recruiting Agency were sent to selected post offices for an orientation competent to cope up with the work, Army Postal Training School was formed at Delhi in October,1942 AD and shifted to Ambala in January,1943 AD. The short training course combined postal institution with rudiments of military training including practical experience of military camp life. During the three years of its existence produced 900 postal clerks of a good professional standard.[114]

Army Postal Service Record Office

In 1945 AD a separate Army Postal Service Record office was formed at Bombay. The Record Office was located in the Base Postal Depot and moved to Nagpur in September 1945 AD. It was separated from the Posts and Telegraphs Pay and Accounts Office on 1st June,1946 AD and shifted to Outram lines, Kamptee in July, 1946 AD.[115]

Army Postal Service Training Centre

Demobilisation of the Indian Army Postal Service began in October 1945 AD. The Army Postal Service Demob Centre was raised at Nagpur in 1946 AD and shifted to Kamptee in July 1946 AD along with the Record Office. After finishing demobilisation duties, the Demob Centre became the nucleus of the new Army Postal Service Training Centre with which it was merged in March, 1948 AD.[116]

Thus gained by the experiences during the Military Expeditions and Campaigns prior to the two Great Wars, during the World Wars, the Army Postal Service perfected its system of working and strengthened its organisational set up. Since 1942 AD Army Postal Service functioned continuously in India and overseas as a permanent part of the Regular Army. The transferred administrative responsibility from the Posts and Telegraphs to the Army gave combatant status to Army Postal units in the war organisation of Brigades, Divisions, Areas and Armies.

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[113] Virk, ibid. p.8. [114] Virk, ibid. p.9.
[115] Virk, ibid. p.10. [116] Virk, ibid. p.10.

Since the dawn of Indian independence in 1947 AD, Field Post offices served all the Missions of peace such as the Indian Custodians Force in Indo-China and the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces in Ghaza and the Congo.[117] As on 31st March,1954 AD five gazetted officers and 762 non gazetted postal personnel were on field service with Army Postal Service.[118] Arrangements were made for the exchange of mails, unregistered and registered correspondence and parcels for sale of Indian Postal Orders and issue of money orders, to serve the members of the International Commission for Supervision and Control, their staff and Indian Forces personnel in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos through the Indian Army Post Offices established there. Arrangements were also made in 1954-55 AD to overprint certain Indian Postage stamps with the names of the countries for use at these places.[119]

During the Chinese aggression of 1962 AD and that of Palestian in 1965 AD Army Postal Service rendered a laudable service to the troops. During the Bangladesh liberation of 1971 AD in the impregnable land of Bangladesh knit by numerous rivers and streams. The Indian Army Post Office followed the serving soldiers on their march and served the troops in all possible ways. (see Illustration 21 for Army Mails being dropped with supplies in a forward area). In March,1948 AD the following concessions were granted for troops serving in the Jammu and Kashmir area:[119a]

(a) All ranks were permitted to send free of postage by surface mail one post card or letter weighing upto one tola once a week. Such letters could be sent by air mail if surface route was not practicable;

(b) Indian postal orders were sold free of commission at field post offices; and

(c) Savings bank money orders were issued free of commission at field post offices.

In 1949 AD, Defence services personnel were made eligible for the Postal Life Insurance and Field Post Offices were authorised to accept payment of Premia. Facilities for renewal of Broadcast Radio Licences were introduced in the year 1952 AD.[120] Insurance service between Army Post Offices and Civil post offices was introduced with effect from 1st March 1965 AD under certain conditions namely that the maximum amount for which a service can be insured should not exceed Rs.500 and the service will be available to and from a base or a Section Base post office only.[121] The scheme to cover all Army Post offices including Field Post Offices was extended in 1967-68 AD. The maximum amount for which an article for any Army Post office can be insured was, however, limited to Rs.250 only.[122] This limit was raised to Rs.500 with effect from 1st October,1969 AD and to Rs 1000 with effect from 1st August 1980 AD and the insurance limit as applicable to civil post offices was made applicable to Army Post Offices as well in 1992 AD.[123]

In 1966 AD the responsibility for supply of newspapers and magazines to the troops was taken over. On lst July 1969 AD, Army Postal Service (APS) took over from the Corps of Signals the responsibility for handling the official mail of the three Services.

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117. Virk, Brig. D.S., Army Post Offices and Philately, p.12. 118. ARPO 1954-55,p.14.
119. ARPO 1954-55, p.21. 119a. ARPO 1947-48, p.56. 120. Lt.Col. B.N.Som is an article,"The Army Postal Service Corps" published in Dak Tar, March 1977, p.3. 121. ARPO 1964-65, p.5. 122. ARPO 1967-68, p.4.
123. ARPO 1969-70, p.4 and Department of Posts communication No 11-7/79-CI dates 12th November 1992, P.1.

The facility of one way value payable service in Army postal Service which was provided on experimental basis from 1st August 1991 AD which was made as the permanent facility in 1993 AD.[123a]

Army Postal Service was constituted into a permanent Corps of the Army on 1st March 1972 AD. It has chosen 'Raj hans' (Swan), a mythical carrier of messages of love, as its symbol and 'Mel Milap' (Amity and Concord) as its motto. In 1973 AD, APS Association was formed as a non-sectarian and non-political body duly registered to foster friendship among the APS personnel, promoting their welfare and providing financial relief to them and to their dependents in distress. The issue of the Corps journal 'Mail Milap' commenced from 1973 AD.

In the year 1973 AD, a Corps Regiment Fund was also constituted, as a welfare measure for providing financial assistance, fostering esprit-de-corps and to promote welfare of the serving members whether past or present, of the Army Postal service and their dependents. All serving personnel are required to pay a nominal annual subscription and in return the fund looks after the dependents of personnel who die while in service in APS or in civil on reversion by making substantial financial grants. It also makes grants towards alleviation of distress of its members, past and present.

In 1975 AD, facility for payment of pension from the Field Post Office was extended to retired service personnel in the inhospitable area of Nubra Valley in Leh. In June of the same year the management of Postal Life Insurance was entrusted to Director Army Postal Service. During a short span of 20 months over 80,000 Defence service personnel have taken up Postal Life Insurance (PLI).

Since the date of its formation as a separate Corps, the Army Postal Service has taken long strides. To the extent possible, the establishment has been streamlined for optimum output and efficiency. Scales of accommodation for Field Post Offices and Postal Units have been revised so that adequate accommodation is available for their technical functioning. Forms in use for the Field post offices since the Second World War have been revised and rationalised and keeping in view the practical needs as also the operational requirements of Field post offices, a new series of forms have been issued, This revision had brought both economy as also functional efficiency. On the similar lines certain items of equipments have also been standardised and modernized.[124]

Philately has also become popular among the Armed Forces. A number of special commemorative stamps and first day covers have been issued on Defence themes. Armed Forces personnel were getting restricted Savings Bank facilities through Field Post Offices. To extend full Savings Bank facilities to Defence personnel through Army Post Offices, 101 Field Post Offices were vested with SB powers in the first phase with effect from 2nd January,1978 AD.[125]

As on 31st March 1985 AD, 3994 personnel were on deputation to Army Postal Service. There are about 500 Army Post Offices serving purely the armed forces. The Army Post Offices were booking money orders, but not paying them. The payment of money orders like

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123a. Department of Posts communication No 13-13/91-CI dated 30th August 1993.

123. (b) ARPO 1984-85, p.14.

124. Lt.Col. B.N.Som, ibid, pp.4.23.

125. ARPO 1976-77, p.33.

other post offices was under taken by the Army Post Offices during 1992-93 AD.[126]

The Army Postal Service has extended the facilities of the India Post to field formations of the Army, Air Force and para-military forces wherever they have served, in India or overseas. Although Field post offices are designed as mobile units, functioning in trucks or tents, they have provided almost all postal facilities available to the public, at civil post offices. The Army Postal Service has also implemented postal concessions granted to the soldiers. Though an integral part of the Army, the Army Postal Service has functioned as a part of the India Post for technical purposes, and is for all purposes a member of the India Post family.

In recognition of their service to the armed forces, many officers and men of the service have been decorated from time to time. Brig D.S. Virk, Director Army Postal Service was awarded the "Ati Vishisht Seva Medal" during 1968-69 AD. Captain Sant Dass of Army Postal Service was awarded "Vishisht Seva Medal" by the Chief of Army Staff on 26th January 1970 AD, for his devotion to duty and display of leadership in maintaining postal services in Sikkim and Bhutan and in 1977 AD, Brig O.P. Raghava, Director Army Postal Service, was awarded the "Ati Vishisht Seva Medal". This is in recognition of the performance of the Army Postal Service and in turn means kudos for the Department of Posts.[127]

The Army Postal Service in other words the Postal (Army) Service has thus fulfilled its traditional duty of rendering assistance to the Armed Forces and its mission of being at the service of serving personnel and their families. The tokens of love ie., the correspondence exchanged between the serving personnel and their families and the facilities made available to the public to correspond with their kith and kin serving and living in different countries have paved a way in developing the jabit of preserving the postal stationery and collection of stamps, in other words, these facilities have been one of the factors which gave impetus in development of Philately. The chapter that follows contains a brief history of postage stamps issued during the last fourteen decades.

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126. ARPO 1992-93. p.45.
127. ARPO 1968-69. p.30. ARPO 1969-70. p.25 and Lt.Col. B.N. Som. ibid. p.23.

Chapter Eleven

PHILATELY

Postage Stemps

The invention of a postage stamp and its usefulness vies in no less proportion in importance with the history of the great inventions.[1] The first postage stamp in India, Scinde dawk, was issued on 1st July, 1852 AD by Sir Bartle Frere, Commissioner of Scinde (later known as Karachi and now a portion of Pakistan) district only before the District Post was officially constituted as public post and the introduction of postage stamps for payment of correspondence in India. They were the first postage stamps used in Asia. On centralisation of the administration of the postal service, the first adhesive paper postage stamp, a prepayment device, was issued on all-India basis on 01st October 1854 AD.[2] It was an unperforated and ungummed half anna stamp with the Queen's head, in blue, designed and printed by the lithograph process at the Surveyor General's Office at Calcutta. Subsequent issue of stamps were the one anna, similar to the half anna, the octagonal 4 annas printed in two colours. The two anna denomination was typographed by the Stamp Office. The value of postage stamps struck off at the lithographic press up to May 1855 AD amounted to about 4.11 crores of rupees.[3]

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[1] Brochure dated 6 May 1990 AD issued by the Department of Post India. The first adhesive postage stamp was issued in Britain. It was a small, square piece of paper, black in colour and showing the Queen's head and postage of one penny. This stamp is popularly known as "Penny Black." The Penny Black was put on sale on Ist May 1840 AD, though it was valid for postage only from 6th May, 1840 AD This stamp which became a trend-setter, has an interesting background. In 1837 AD, Sir Rowland Hill had published two pamphlets on Post Office Reforms and collection of postage by means of stamps. Through these pamphlets, he pleaded for introduction of a uniform postage rate of one distance and the prepayment of postage. Hill suggested the issue of 'small stamped labels'. His idea of these labels was described as "a bit of paper just large enough to bear a stamp". To obtain a suitable design for the adhesive stamp, the Treasury organised a competition. Even though 2600 entries were received, none was considered suitable for use. Ultimately, Hill decided to use the Queen's portrait in the size and format as shown on the Tax labels. For the portrait as shown on the Tax labels. For the portrait he selected the design of the Queen's head as engraved on the commemorative City Medal of 1837 AD by William Wyon. Henri Corbould, a London artist, was commissioned to prepare the water colour based on Wyon's medal for the postage stamp. The design was printed in black colour for the one penny stamps and in blue colour for the two pence stamps though the latter were not available till 8th May 1840 AD Items of stationery like letter sheets, wrapper and envelopes also appeared along with the Penny Black. Of these, the Mulready envelopes (named after William Mulready the designer) were the most famous though the least popular. The Penny Blacks were in use for less than a year and were replaced by the Penny Red in 1841 AD. After the issue of the Penny Blacks, one country after the other started issuing postage stamps.

[2] Hansburg, L.L.R. The Postage and Telegraph Stamps of British India, Pt.I. PO, pp.3, 4. On the 10th July, 1852 AD Sir Bartlefrence, the Commissioner of Scinde (now more usually spelt as "Sind") introduced the first postage stamps for local use, within the boundaries of that province and on the Bombay-Karachi route. Though valid for correspondence within the borders of the province of Sind, were really used only in the towns of Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Sikharpur. They were the first postage stamps used in Asia. The stamps were made in England. The central design of the stamp was the East India Company's modification of the broad arrow, which they had used from the time of Charles II. The Stamp was of half anna, in red colour and circular shape. Home (public) Proceedings 7 of 22 February 1854, p.14. Home (Public) letters to Court, 16 of 1855, p.141. Home (Public) letters from Court, 101 of 15 October 1856, p.3. Union Postale of 1942, p.447, and 1954, p.98-A. The first postage stamp produced in India were the lithographic red-half anna stamps with the "Lion and Palm tree" design, which were never used. They were discarded in favour of the stamps with the Queen's head designed from the "Wyon" medal.

From 1855 AD onwards, Messrs. Thomas De La Rue and Company of London entrusted with the work of supplying the postage stamps printed them with typographic process.[4] In course of time a number of new series of postage stamps were issued and prominent among them were the 8 pies issue of 1860 AD and the annas -6/8 issue of 1867 AD.

Although after the revolt of 1857 AD, India became an Imperial possession, the postage stamps issued till 1876 AD bore the term "East India" before the word "Postage" in the superscription on the stamps. They were no indicative of political and administrative change that had taken place. The list of postage stamps in use during 1876-77 AD comprised of 1/2, 3/4 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 12 and 16 annas (1 Rupee) lables.[5] (vide Plate 17).

In the new issue of 1882 AD the word "East" was omitted from the superscription. It contained the changed inscription "India postage" which was continued to be adopted thereafter.[6]

One anna revenue or receipt stamps came to be sold at all post office since 1886 AD.[7] The postage stamps of values of 2, 3 and 5 rupees issued in 1895 AD contained the Angeli portrait of Queen Victoria. Two years before the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's reign, Professor Von Angeli had painted an excellent portrait of her Majesty. The ornamentation surrounding the proper heading had an oriental touch and was singularly appropriate for an Indian issue.[8]

In 1902 AD the postage stamps, envelopes and postcards bearing the portrait of King Edward VII were introduced and the Imperial Crown came to be inserted separately.[9] The postage stamps of three other denomination of 10, 15 and 25 rupees were issued in 1909 AD. Postage stamps of the denomination of 1 anna, 2 annas and 3 annas, bearing the portrait of King George V were sold from 1st December 1911 AD onwards. In 1912 AD the postage stamps of the denominations of 1/2 anna, 2 1/2 annas, 4 annas, 6 annas, 8 annas, 12 annas, 5 rupees and 15 rupees with portrait of King George V were issued for sale.[10] (vide Plate 18).

The long connections between India and De La Rue Company ended in 1926 AD All subsequent issues of Indian postage stamps were printed by the Security Press located at Nasik in the provinces of Bombay.[11] The first commemorative issue printed in India on Air Mail in 1929 AD depicted a pictorial design apart from the Kings's head. This depicted an aeroplane flying over an area which included hills, a lake and vegetation. In commemoration of the inauguration of New Delhi, next series, was issued in 1931 AD and depicted five land marks of New Delhi, the Purana Quilla, the War Memorial Arch, the Council House, the Viceroy's House and the Imperial Secretariat.[12] Other ordinary

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[3] Home (Public) letters from Court, 101 of 15 October, 1856, p.3.

[4] Home (Public) letter to Court, No.31 of 11 May 1854, pp.221,222. [5] ARPO 1876-77, p.3.

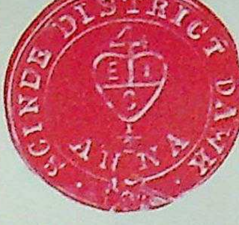
[6] Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, Post Office, B No.369-72 of June 1897, p.1.

[7] ARPO 1886-87, p.12. [8] ARPO 1895-96, p.2. These stamps contained the portrait of Queen Victoria painted by Professor Von Angeli two years before the Golden Jubilee of her reign. [9] ARPO 1902-03, pp.2, 6.

[10] Commerce and Industry, Post Office, A.13 & 14 of June, 1911, p.3. and L'Union Postale, 10 of 1954, p.99.A and ARPO 1911-12, p.2. [11] ARPO 1926-27, p.11. [12] Union Postale 10, 1954, p.99 A.

PLATE 17

POSTAGE STAMPS CONTAINING PORTRAIT OF QUEEN VICTORIA


SCINDE DISTRICT DAWK
ANNA

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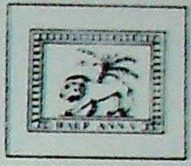

2

ORIGINAL DRAWING (PHOTOGRAPH)

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INDIA
ONE ANNA

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INDIA
FOUR ANNAS

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INDIA POSTAGE

22

23

INDIA POSTAGE
THREE ANNAS

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INDIA
GWALIOR
ग्वालियर

28

29

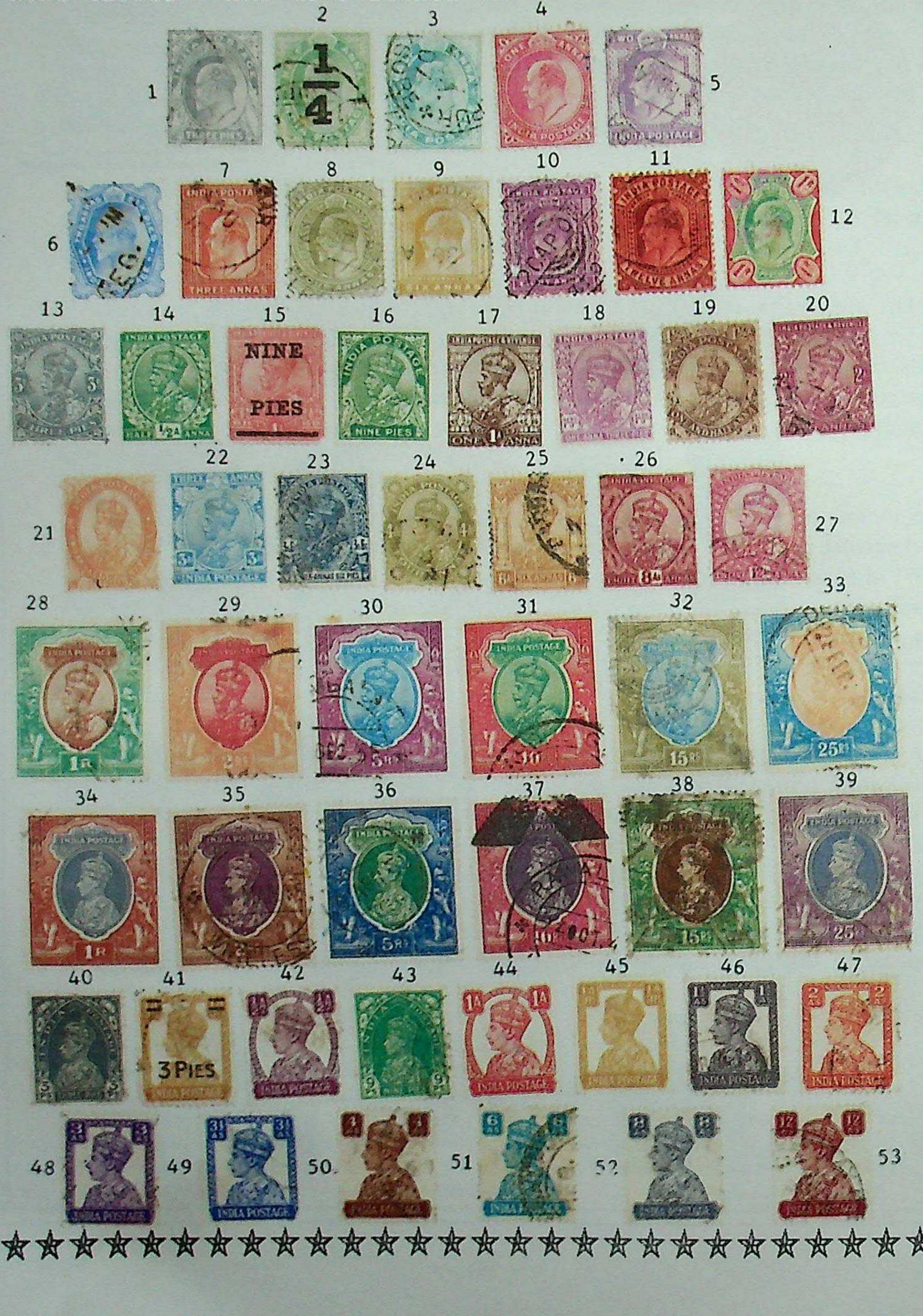
30

INDIA
GWALIOR
ग्वालियर

31

PLATE 18

POSTAGE STAMPS CONTAINING THE PORTRAIT OF KING EDWARD VII, KING GEORGE V AND KING GEORGE VI.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52
53
NINE PIES
3 PIES

public postage issues were made from time to time as required by the Postal Administration. The next important issue was the Silver Jubilee series of 1935 AD The portrait of King George V and pictorial depiction of a prominent Indian architectural or monumental structure and the inscription containing the words "Silver Jubilee Commemoration" were depicted on these series in seven denominations ranging from half anna to 8 annas.

The inscription contained the word "Silver Jubilee Commemoration". The design was horizontal in double anna size. The live portrait of King George the V facing bust was inset on the right, the pictorial depiction of a prominent Indian architectural or monumental structure occupying the left. These features were the Gateway of India, Bomaby, the Victoria Memorial and the Jain Temple at Calcutta, the Rameshwaram temple, the Taj Mahal at Agra, the Golden Temple at Amritsar and the Pagoda in Mandalay, Burma. A complete series of King George VI postage stamps from 3 paise to 25 rupees was issued in 1937 AD the nine pies and one anna stamps being introduced from 23rd August 1937 AD and the rest from the 15the December 1937 AD.[13]

In the pictorial Dak series of 1937 AD, the various methods of conveyance used by the postal administration in carriage of mail from the early days till then were brought to the public notice. The pictorial portion included the runner, the Bullock Cart, the Tonga, the Camel, the Train the Steamer, the Lorry and the aeroplane. These were eight denominations of stamps from two annas to twelve annas.[14] The further pictorial issues were the set comprising four values marked by a "Victory" issued after the World War II in 1946 AD.[15]

A special set of stamps was issued in 1947 AD to commemorate the national and international significance of the 15th August 1947 AD the date of attainment of India's Independence. The Stamps bore the inscription "Jai Hind" in a Devanagari script which is used in Hindi. [16]

In commemoration of the inauguration of India's External Air Service from Bombay to London a special "First Flight" stamp was issued on 8th June 1948 AD.[17] On the first anniversary of India's Independence i.e., on 15th August 1948 AD, homage to Mahatma Gandhi "the Father of the Nation" was marked by issuing special memorial stamps. The stamps were printed by photogravure process in Switzerland on paper without water-mark. The denominations were 1 1/2 annas, 3 1/2 annas, 12 annas and 10 rupees. The first three values were identical in design and showed a full face of Mahatma Gandhi while the 10 rupees denomination bore a profile.[18]

On the next anniversary Indian Independence which fell on August 15th, 1949 AD series of stamps were issued. The postage stamps for official use bore the State emblem namely the Ashokan Capitol. New postal stationery depicting appropriate design was also introduced in replacement of the old ones. They represented various gems of architecture and sculpture of historical interest.[19]

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13. Ibid, p.99-A. The architectural structures depicted were the Gate Way of India, Bombay, The Victoria Memorial, and the Jain Temple of Calcutta, the Rameswaram Temple, the Taj Mahal of Agra, The Golden Temple of Amritsar and the Pagoda Mandalay, Burma. ARPO 1937-38, p.4.

14. ARPO 1937-38, p.4. 15. ARPO 1946-47, p.5. and L'Union Postale, 10 of October 1954, p.99-A.
16. ARPO 1947-48, p.13. 17. ARPO 1948-49, p.14 18. ARPO 1948-49, p.16.
19. ARPO 1949-50, pp. 5, 6. 20. ARPO 1949-50, pp. 4,5 and Union Postale 10 of 1954 p.100-A.

In October 1949 AD a set of commemorative stamps was issued in conjunction with other Postal Administration of the World on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland. Commemorating the inauguration of the Republic of India, special stamps were issued on 26th January 1950 AD. [20]

The centenary of the Geological Survey of India was commemorated by the issue of special postage stamp of two annas on the 13th January 1951 AD. In connection with the first Asian Games in New Delhi, 9 commemorative stamps of the value of two annas and twelve annas were issued in March 1951 AD.[21] These depict a torch against the background of a paint of the Southern coast line of Asia.

The series of postage stamps printed in 1952 AD carried the portraits of some of the famous saints and poets of India. The series consisted of 6 denominations and carried the pictures of Kabir, Tulsidas, Mira (a Rajput princess), Surdas, Ghalib and Tagore. They were printed by the photogravure process for the first time in India.[22]

To commemorate the centenary celebrations of the Indian Railways and Telegraphs, postage stamps were issued in 1953 AD.[23] The Conquest of Everest" was commemorated in 1953 AD by the issue of stamps carrying the words "Conquest of Everest" in English and "Everest Vijaya" in Devanagari characters together with the date of conquest namely the 29th May 1953 AD.[24]

Series of stamps commemorating the Centenary of the first Indian Postage Stamp were issued in 1954 AD. All these stamps bore the inscription "India Postage" and the figures "1854-54" and the words "Dak Ticket Shatabdi" in Devanagari character to denote the centenary aspect of the issue. In addition a special postal stationery bearing the superscription "Bharat Dak Ticket Shatabdi" in Hindi Devanagari script was also issued.[25]

Two more commemorative stamps were issued in 1954 AD the one with United Nations Day - U.N.emblem and lotus in commemoration of the U.N.O. founded at Saint Francisco on 26th June, 1954 AD In India lotus signifies Peace. The other one commemorating the Fourth World Forest Congress held in Dehradun in 1954 AD. Thereafter i.e. from 1956 AD onwards the Department of Posts has issued several definitive and commemorative stamps portraying varied aspect of Indian life. Stamps have depicted wild life, religions, nation building activities connected with five year plans, rich architectural and archaeological heritage, social and educational themes connected with children, historical events and conquest of the Everest. Other pay homage to national leaders and freedom fighters, philosophers, warriors, artists, industrialists, educationists, scientists etc. Among others, the Department of Posts has also the privilege of issuing several stamps on international events and U.N themes as also on foreign personalities. The stamps so issued have been depicted theme -wise on separate plates (Plates No 1 to 34) and details thereof are narrated in Appendix III. The details of these stamps include the date of issue, denomination of the stamp and the subject on which it has been issued.

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21. ARPO 1949-50. p.6. 22. ARPO 1950-51. p.7. 23. ARPO 1952-53. p.3. 24. ARPO 1953-54. p.77.

25. ARPO 1954-55, p.2. ARPO 1958-59, p.1. and ARPO 1968-69. p.18. In 1958-59 AD a new watermark bearing the outlines of the lion capitol of Ashoka in the adhesive stamp used for printing India Postage Stamps in replacement of the multiple, 'Star' watermark in use since 1926 AD. The National Philatelic Museum was opened in the office of Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Dak Tar Bhavan, New Delhi on 6th July, 1968 AD.

Philatelic Exhibitions

The stamp collecting hobby appears to have started immediately after the issue of the first postage stamp in 1840 AD. For nearly two decades, stamp collecting as a hobby was confined mostly to school boys and enthusiasts who were called uncomplimentary names such as 'Timbromaniacs'. By 1863 AD, however, the hobby had made inroads into the hearts of serious-minded people. They found in stamps, apart from their illustrative and pictorial value, sufficient interest to justify the study of their specialities. They found the history of every design worth tracing through the various mutations of shade, paper, watermark and perforation. Thus, stamp collecting took a new trend towards study and grouping of stamps on a scientific basis. It also acquired a reputable and new name of 'Philately' from the combination of the Greek words 'Philos' (fond of) and 'Atelia' (exemption from tax).

Philately being a social hobby, it did not take long for clubs and societies to be organised as the interest in philately grew. With the formation of philatelic clubs and societies, the need for exhibiting individual collections by stamp collectors was strongly felt. Thus, started philatelic exhibitions.[26]

Since independence, the Department of Post India has made pioneering efforts in promoting philately through exhibitions. To celebrate the centenary of Indian postage stamp, the first International Stamp Exhibition was held in New Delhi in 1954 AD, the first national exhibition was held in 1970 AD in New Delhi, the second in Calcutta in 1975 AD, the third in Bangalore in 1977 AD, the fourth in New Delhi during 1982 AD and the fifth at Jaipur in 1986 AD.

An International Exhibition, INDIPEX-73 was held in New Delhi in 1973 AD. The first international exhibition under the aegis of the Federation Internationalede Philatelie was INDIA-80 International Stamp Exhibition which was held in New Delhi in 1980 AD. This exhibition marked the centenary of the Post Card Service in India as also the 125th anniversary of the First Indian Postage Stamp and was the first International Stamp Exhibition to be held in Asia under the patronage of the Federation Internationale de philatelie. World philatelic Exhibition was held at New Delhi in 1989 AD under the auspices of the Department of Posts in co-operation with the Philatelic Congress of India.

The first Asia Exhibition, ASIANA-77 was held at Bangalore in 1977 AD. It was organised by the Philatelic Congress of India, an apex federated body of all the Philatelic Societies and Clubs in India, with the active participation and assistance of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and also the Government of Karnataka. The exhibition was exclusively for the Asian and Australasian countries and under the patronage of the Inter-

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26. Brochure dated 23 Dec. 1970 AD issued by the Department of Post India. At first, the philatelic exhibitions were confined to the members of societies and clubs was confined to the members of societies and clubs but soon it spread over to national and international fields. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the first postage stamp, the first International Exhibition was held in London in 1890 AD Other International Exhibitions at Paris, Hague, Amsterdam, Vienna followed in quick succession. The first Internaional Philatelic Exhibition in U.S.A. was held in 1913 AD. Now International Exhibitions are being held practically every year in one country or the other. Philatelic Exhibitions are known to have been held in the later decade of the last century.

Asia Philatelic Federation (FIAP) which is the Asian chapter of the Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP).[27]

International Philatelic Exhibition is an occasion for the philatelists the world over to establish new contacts, renew friendships and for fostering healthy competition amongst themselves. It gives an opportunity for learning about the latest techniques in designing and printing of stamps. It is also an occasion to enjoy the beauty of man's creativeness, of progress, of nature in all its myriad forms, because, ultimately these small pieces of paper, which are called stamps, depict a country's ethos.

Circle level exhibitions are being organised by the various Chief Postmasters General in their respective circles. Besides, private Philatelic Clubs/Associations are also organising philatelic exhibitions to promote philately.

Philatelic literature, especially periodicals, played a vital role in disseminating news and information and bringing together philatelists. A few early efforts, such magazines as "The Philatelic World" and "The Indian Philatelist", both started in 1894 AD, were short lived. 'The Philatelic Journal of India', issued by the Philatelic Society of India, was first published at Calcutta in 1897 AD and is still current: 'India's Stamp Journal" has seen over 50 years of publication and 'Signet' and 'Ind Dak', over a decade. Other magazines like 'Top Phil', 'Stamp World', 'Digest',etc. are steadily contributing their efforts to Philately.

The Philatelic Exhibitions held periodically and the philatelic literature viz., the philatelic magazines and journals published from time to time have helped in promoting and disseminating information about the fascinating hobby of Philately.

Perhaps the Postal Department is the only Department which has the widest possible contact with the cross sections of Society. To fulfil the aspirations of the people and enlighten them with various aspects of national life, culture and heritage and international events and developments, the Department has chosen the medium of postage stamp. The impact of India Post on the socio-economic life of the country forms an interesting aspect and the same is discussed in the ensuing chapter.

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[27] Brochure dated 19 Oct. 1977 issued by the Department of Post India. FIP was founded in 1926 AD by representative from 7 European countries to safeguard the interests of stamp collectors at international level. At present, there is hardly any National Philatelic Federation of a country which is not affiliated with the FIP. The FIP has set up standard rules for holding the International Exhibitions under their patronage. The FIP has categorized harmful, improper and undesirable stamps issues which they have banned for exhibiting in any of the International Exhibitions under their patronage. FIAP was organised in 1975 AD to strengthen the philatelic activities among Asian and Australasian countries. To increase the participation of Asian countries in International Exhibitions, the idea of Regional Exhibitions was mooted.

PLATE 19

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

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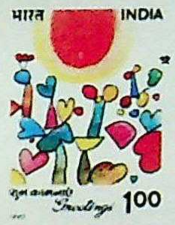
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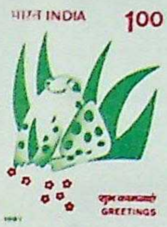
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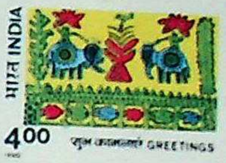
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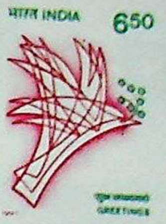
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GREETINGS

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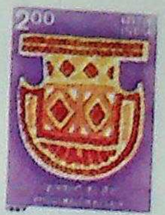

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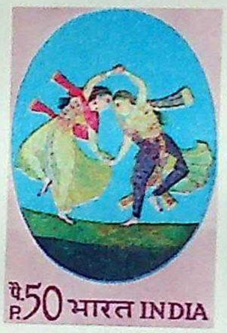
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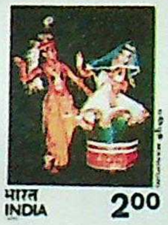
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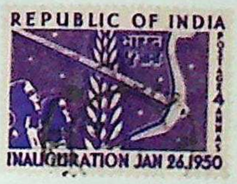
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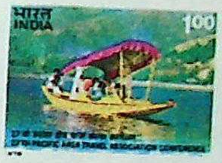
POSTAGE 4 ANNAS
INAUGURATION JAN 26.1950

9

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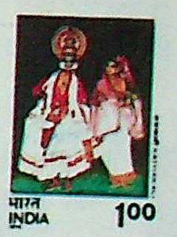
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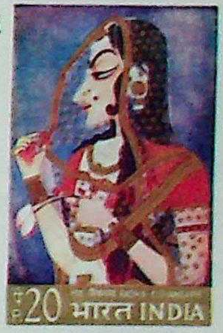
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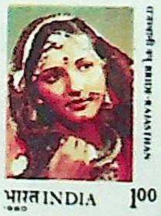
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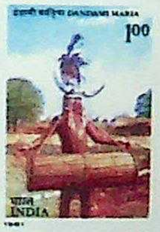
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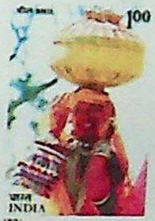
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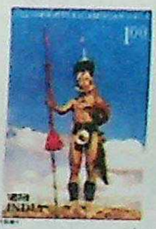
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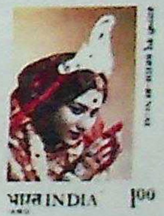
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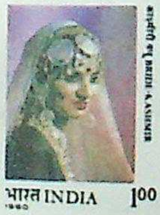
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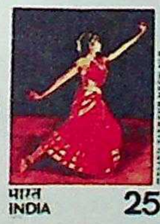
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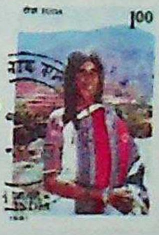

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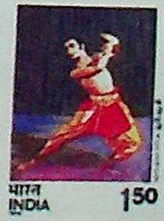
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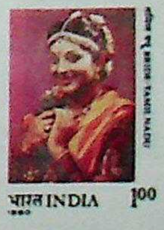
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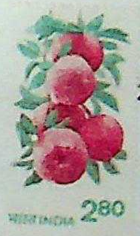
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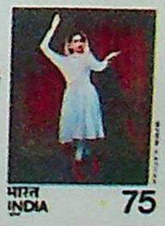
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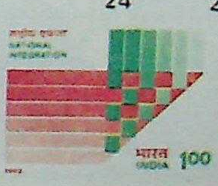
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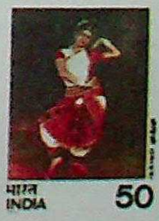
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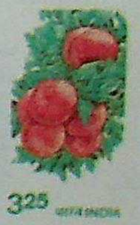
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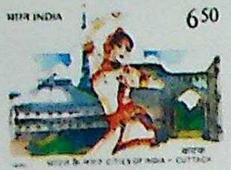
PLATE 20

27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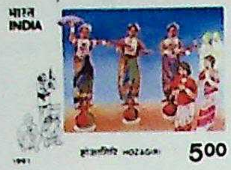
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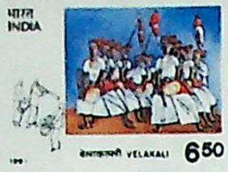
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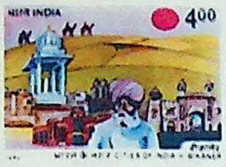
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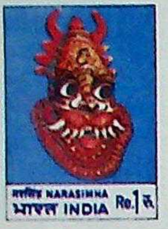
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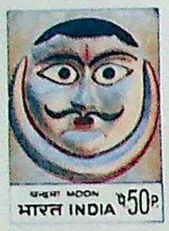
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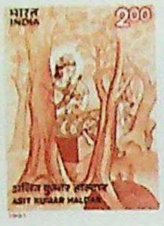
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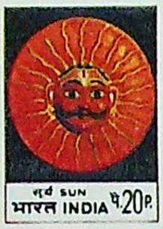
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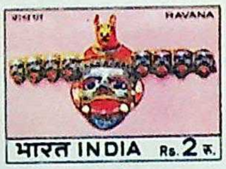
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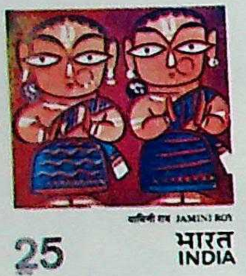
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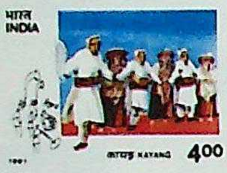
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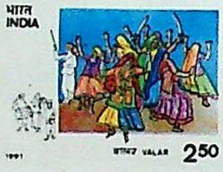
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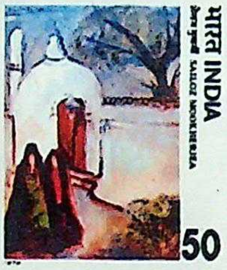
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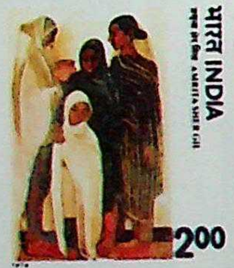
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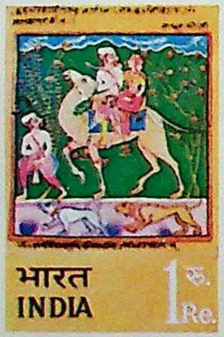
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INDIA
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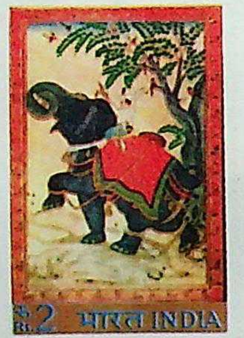

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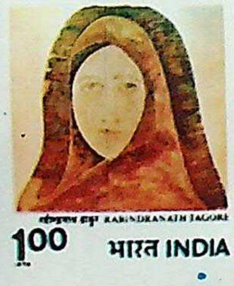
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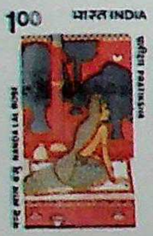
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PRATIKSHA

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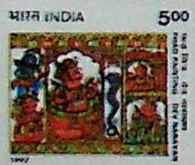
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5.00

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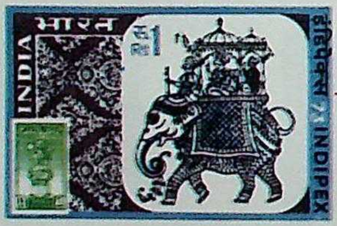
भारत
INDIA
Re 1
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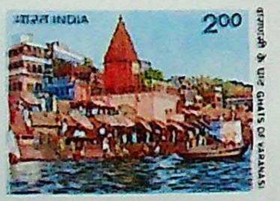
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GHATS OF VARANASI

------------------- *Chapter Twelve* -------------------

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF INDIA POST

The history of postal system in India is in a way linked with the history of its social, political, intellectual, commercial and economic development. This history enables one to have some idea of the general life of the country.

The uniform postage rate and the reforms introduced in 1854 AD though could not cater to the needs of the larger section of the people it provided considerable facilities to the individuals in increasing their correspondence.

Initial Reaction and Public Confidence

The general sentiments of some of the 'Ryots' (Citizens) of the Bombay Presidency opposing the introduction of the Post Office Act of 1854 AD were expressed as under:

"A letter is our real property and a treasury of the secret of our hearts, we are at liberty to send and call for them in the way we find much satisfactory to our minds, and that it is not a government land, which we can not cultivate without paying its assessment."

- Ryots of Surat,
September 14, 1853 AD[1]

The reasons for the above view was that the East India Company's post office network both under the Presidency and the District post systems was limited. The natives were prevented by distance in using the Company's post offices leading to great inconvenience to them. Secondly the uniform postage rate proposed under the reforms did not alter the rate on minimum weight within a distance of hundred miles and could not attract the people much. Moreover the minimum rate of half an anna equal to about 6 d. in England was very high.[2]

The private daks established by natives were within the means of poor man and suited to the requirements of the native community. The proposed elimination of the private dak agencies and the Company's monopoly greatly agitated the minds of the native community. Those deprived of the then available better means of communication through the native dak could be said to have shared some what of the same feelings.

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[1] Legislative Department, Act XV - XXXIV, p.98. The petition addressed to the Governor General of India was signed by 1048 Ryots of Surat. [2] Finance, Separate Revenue, A.5/7 of October 1873, p.1.

It was commonly believed by the natives, and not without reason, that an unpaid letter was more secure, and more speedily delivered than a paid letter. It does not appear to be strange as the unpaid letters, if not delivered were to be brought back to the post office and the postage was to be accounted by the postmen.

The degree of growth of confidence of the native community in the Company's postal system was in inverse proportion to the decrease in unpaid letters posted and in other words it was in direct proportion to the increase in the paid letters posted.

The proportion of fully paid correspondence posted to the unpaid letter which was 37.36 percent before the introduction of the uniform postage rates, rose to 80 percent in 1854-55 AD immediately after the introduction of reforms. This was perhaps due to the belief in the native public that under the new system pre-payment was compulsory. Fully paid correspondence posted subsequently recorded a decreasing trend in the following years vide figures at table No. XII.1.[3] Though intermittently it decreased to lower levels at the close of a decade it was 63.25 percent during 1864-65 AD.[4]

Due to the ignorance, people used to stuff the letters into cracks and crevice, of the letter boxes and in the mouth of a cistern provided for the supply of water attached to a Railway compartment. [5]

To disseminate the postal knowledge among the natives, Indian Postal Guide was first published in 1869 AD. It was sold at a cost of 1 rupee and 8 annas per copy.[6]

People on the whole were illiterate and ignorant and superstitious. For example, in lower Bengal when a letter received by post reached to an ordinary ryot (citizen), it was laid in the middle of the room, the whole family was called round it, and weeping and lamentation and tears followed, as if a great evil had taken on the house. The Oriyans, in fact looked upon a letter as an object of objectionable form of communication neither to be sent nor to be received, if any other mode of correspondence could be employed.[7]

Even nearly after a period of two decades followed by the postal reforms, the Imperial post was not popular among the masses. In lower Bengal, it was looked upon as something beyond the ken of common-folk, suitable for the Zamindar and the Mahajan, but not to be aspired by the common ryot of the land. A ryot used to go himself in person or sent some one to deliver his news by word of mouth, and brought back an answer by the same means, or, if village scribe was called in, and a letter was written it was sent by a private messenger and not by the public post.[8]

During the year 1873 AD the provincial government of Bengal considered that the postal system then existed was unfair and inequitable to the native community. The said Government felt that the native community did not enjoy those benefits which it should derive from the post office while on the other hand, its members were occasionally

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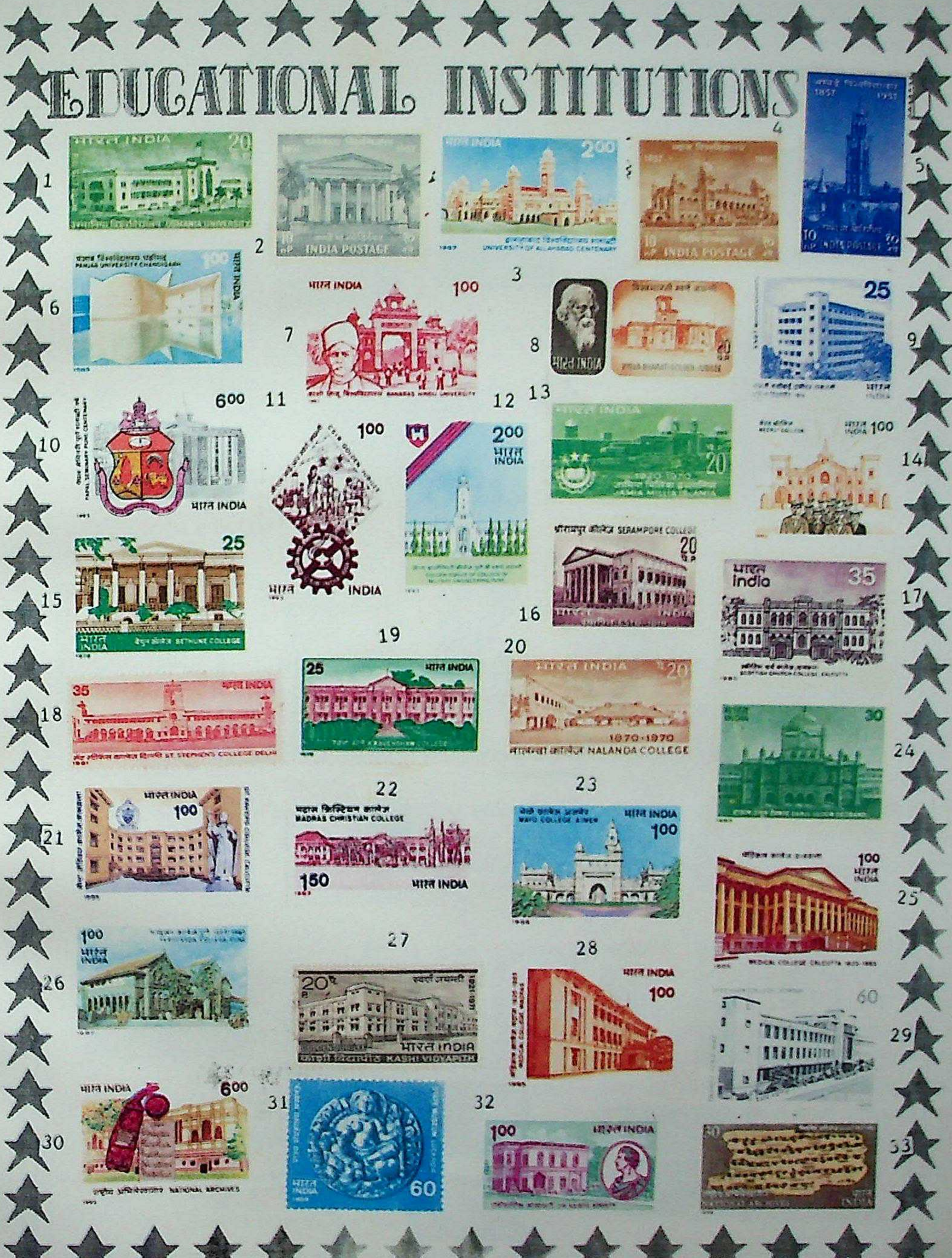
3. Based on the Annual reports of the concerning years. 4. ARPO 1864-65, p.3. 5. ARPO 1874-75 AD, p.4.
6. ARPO 1880-81 AD, p.5. The price of the Postal Guide was reduced to one rupee, eight annas and 4 annas respectively in 1873 AD 1879 AD and 1880 AD respectively..
7. Finance, Separate Revenue, A.6 of October 1873. Appendix B, p.5.
8. Financial, Separate Revenue, A.5/7 of October, 1873 AD, p.5. Report of Mr. J. Tweedie, Postmaster General Bengal to the Director General about the state of postal affairs in Bengal.

PLATE 21

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS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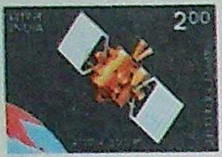
32
33
OSMANIA UNIVERSITY
INDIA POSTAGE
UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD CENTENARY
1857 1957
PANJAB UNIVERSITY CHANDIGARH
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
1920-1970
BETHUNE COLLEGE
SERAMPORE COLLEGE
ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE DELHI
NALANDA COLLEGE
1870-1970
MADRAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
MAYO COLLEGE AJMER
MEDICAL COLLEGE CALCUTTA
KASHI VIDYAPITH
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
भारत INDIA

PLATE 22

SCIENCE AND SCIENTISTS

1



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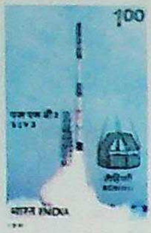
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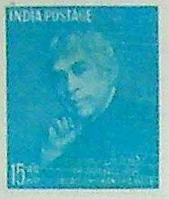
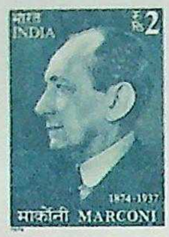

INDIA POSTAGE
15

4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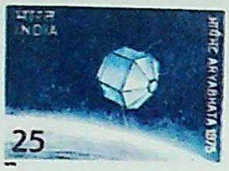
Rs 2
1874-1937
मार्कोनी MARCONI

5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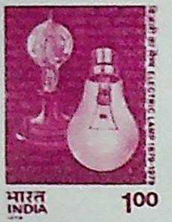
ARYABHATA 1975
25

6


ELECTRIC LAMP 1879-1979
भारत INDIA
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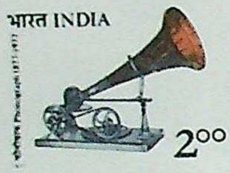
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Phonograph 1877-1977
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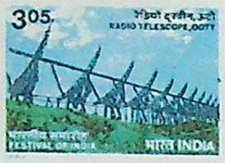
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RADIO TELESCOPE, OOTY
FESTIVAL OF INDIA
भारत INDIA

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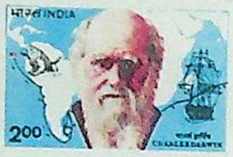
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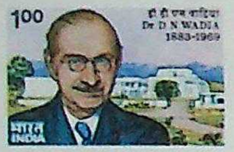
CHARLES DARWIN

10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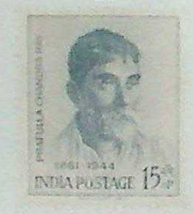
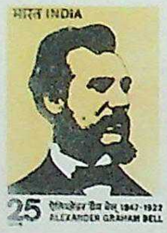
डी एन वाडिया
Dr D N WADIA
1883-1969
भारत INDIA

11


PRAFULLA CHANDRA RAY
1861-1944
INDIA POSTAGE 15

12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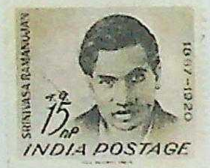
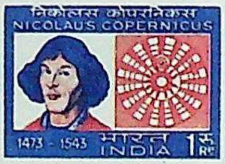
25
ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL 1847-1922

13


SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN
1887-1920
15 nP
INDIA POSTAGE

14


निकोलस कोपरनिकस
NICOLAUS COPERNICUS
1473 - 1543
भारत INDIA
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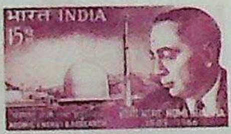
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15 P

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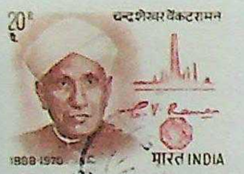
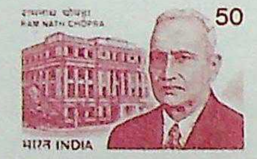

20 P
चन्द्रशेखर वेंकटरामन
1888-1970
भारत INDIA

17


राम नाथ चोपड़ा
RAM NATH CHOPRA
50
भारत INDIA

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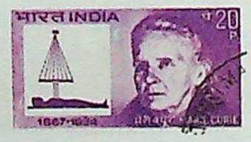
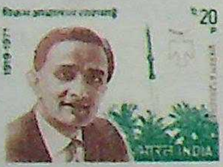

भारत INDIA
20 P
1867-1934

19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1919-1971
भारत INDIA

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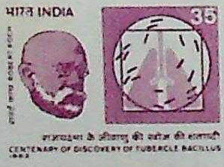
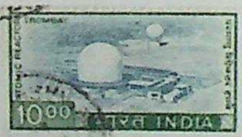

भारत INDIA
35
DR ROBERT KOCH
CENTENARY OF DISCOVERY OF TUBERCLE BACILLUS

21


TROMBAY
ATOMIC REACTOR
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भारत INDIA

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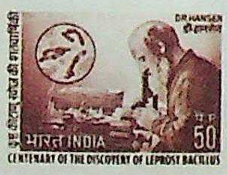
DR HANSEN
भारत INDIA
50 P
CENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF LEPROSY BACILLUS

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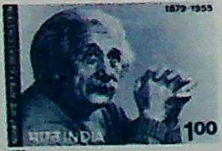
1879-1955
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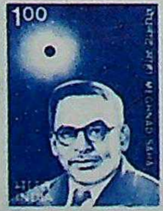
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MEGHNAD SAHA

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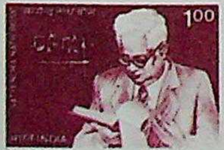
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भारत INDIA

deprived even harshly of the option of communicating by their own means in their own way. For instance in the province of Orissa where over a large portion of that region the only material used for writing was the palm-leaf, the post office, however, did not accept the palm leaves for transmission and several persons had actually been arrested who had in their possession some dozens of such letters which they were conveying to Calcutta from residents in Orissa. The position was that not only the post office did not take the only specific sort of letters that the public could write, but the people if they wrote at all sent their letters by private means running the risk of prosecution at the hands of the department, of arrest and fine.[9] The introduction of post card in 1879 AD into the domestic service and the improvements brought about in the District post facilitated the rural community in solving of their problem of communicating.

The decipherment of the addresses written on a letter received by the post office was a problem as it was not a definite address, intended to aid delivery, but a long oriental complementary form, from which the name and residence of the addressee could only be ascertained with much labour and care. A system by which letters were conveyed by some one without any personal knowledge of the parties was beyond the comprehension of the sender. The consequences of this ignorance was, that the sheet of paper was filled with all over writing and was folded or rolled up just as it was about to be given to some friend to convey to its destination. Moreover, the outer side of the letter contained no name and address of the addressee with no name of the post town through which the letter was to be delivered. A few translations are given below as illustration.[10]

(i) "To my most respected, fortunate and God-like mother-in-law let this be placed at the feet of her greatness. Neither the name nor the address of the mother-in-law was given, but the name of the son-in-law was inside the cover.

(ii) "To the lotus like feet of my eldest brother, the more fortunate and much worshiped Bipin Behari." No address or post town was furnished.

(iii) "To the most blessed and fortunate Basi Khan, Calcutta, at Maizuddin's shop."

From 1880-81 AD onwards efforts to disseminate postal information among the rural population were made by the issue, in some parts of India, of a vernacular postal abstract comprising the more important rules, rates and conditions of the Inland post. This publication was distributed gratis.

To rectify the defect in letter writing, particularly the mode of addressing was in the school syllabus at the primary stage and large sheets of paper containing postal charges and the mode of addressing in vernacular and in English were pasted on the wall of the village school where the students used to learn them like the table of multiplication. The mode of addressing was taught thus, *"The address must be clearly written in English or in vernacular. The name should be written first, then profession, the place of residence, the post town in large writing and if the Post Office is small one or there are two post offices in the same name, the name of the district should never be omitted.*[11]

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[9] Financial, Separate Revenue, A.5 of October 1873, p.1. [10] Calcutta Review, Vol.88-89 of 1889, pp.118-120.

A few instances narrated by a native postal official of Muhammedabad post office in Azamgarh district, to have taken place during 1885-86 AD indicate the ignorance that prevailed among the village population of the country on postal matters. To quote in his own words, *"I was one afternoon sitting under a tree close to the post office talking to some Tahsil and Police officials who had called to see me. The letter-box (a big square newly painted red one, with a big long projecting mouth-piece) was lying at a distance of about 20 yards from where we were sitting, waiting to be built up in the wall. A villager approached with a letter in his hand and inquired where he was to place it. The letter box was pointed out to him. He went up to the box, bowed low before it and placed 2 coppers on the ground; retreated a few steps with face towards the box (walking backwards), again bowed very low, then put on his shoes and walked away. I did not discover that he had left 2 coppers on the ground close to the letter-box till some time after he had left. In another case I saw a man drop a letter into the letter-box and then putting his lips close to the mouth of the box, calling aloud (very loud) that the letter was to go to Rewah as if somebody was sitting inside the letter box to hear and carry out his wishes. In the third case I happened to be standing outside a sub post office in Gorakhpur district, when a woman of the agricultural class happened to come and post a letter in the box which was at some little distance from where I was standing. The woman after dropping letter in the box came up to me and begged me to tell her son that she had been very ill for some time, and that the black cow of her husband's brother was dead, and to desire him to come home as soon as possible, or to send some money for her expenses, with a lot of other messages. At first I did not understand what the woman meant, but a little questioning revealed to me the fact that the good woman was under the impression that I was to be the bearer of her letter to her son who was in Trinidad, and she was not certain whether the scribe she had employed in writing the letter had written all what she wished to be written. She took the very prudent precaution of repeating the contents of the letter to me, so that her son may be sure of receiving her whole message verbally, through me, if not by letter."* Numerous other cases of ignorance of this nature did occasionally come to the notice of postal officials which indicated the class of people the post office had to deal in rural parts.[12] The moral of whole thing is that the subject of educating rural population in postal matters and disseminating postal information among them, required constant attention of postal officers.[13]

Initially even the use of postcard presented seemingly insurmountable difficulties. The situation in the early years of the introduction of this simple postal article is analysed in an editorial of Amrita Bazar Patrika as under:

"Postal cards are now a rage all over India. There are men who, to make the contents of the cards unintelligible, make them altogether illegible. Some express themselves in hints which are not only unintelligible to the postal clerks and peon but to the person addressed also. Others have got a notion that all letters, to be sent either by the post or through private harkaras, must be written on post cards that being hookum (order) of the Sirkar (Government); and it is not unusual to see a fat and ignorant, though extremely loyal and

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[11] ARPO 1880-81, p.5 and ARPO 1882-83, p.15. Roy, Bimal Prasad, 'A few facts about GPO' in Calcutta GPO Centenary (1868 AD to 1968 AD), p.46.

[12] ARPO 1885-86, p.25.

[13] ARPO 1882-83, p.15 and ARPO 1884-85, p.25.

law-abiding zamindar sending his letters to his steward written on half a score or post cards, one or two not sufficing to contain his great thoughts. There are others who write their thoughts on post cards and enclose them in an envelope, and attach a half-anna stamp before posting. These men have naturally raised a loud complaint against the unconscionable exactions of Government and native papers given to writing sedition should not let slip this opportunity of indulging their profitable pastime.

But the great difficulty is to teach the people on which side of the card the address is to be written and we think it will be some years before they are enlightened in this respect. But really does it matter much if the address is written on the wrong side. We think that the people of India living under the enlightened rule of the British should have the privilege of writing the address on whichever side they like.."

With the addition of new classes of business, such as money orders, Savings Bank, Postal notes etc., the subject of educating rural population in postal matters engaged more attention of the Department and postal notices came to be issued in vernaculars starting from 1882-83 AD as the intelligent and well-informed community was felt to be of great help to a Department like a post office.

Introduction and propagation of various types of business made the post office more popular among the masses. Soon it earned the appreciation of educated classes, so far as their needs go, by even the poorest and most ignorant in rural tracts of the country.

The amount of public confidence in the post office varied in different parts of the country during the initial years following the postal reforms but came to be secured more or less every where as time went on. The confidence gained by the Department among the general public was hard earned in both ways i.e. (i) by the increasingly adopting of the delivery machinery in the interiors of the country and other allied measures taken to improve the facilities in rural areas etc. and (ii) by gradually educating the public about the popular use of the post office.

The following are some of the steps taken by the post office to improve public relations.[14]

(a) Display advertisements were released on various postal themes with a view to educating the public as also presenting an image of the Department. Occasions like the inaugural sales of postage stamps were publicised.

(b) Posters on Savings Bank and Postal Week Hindi Divas and postage stamps and folders on Post Office Insurance fund were brought out and displayed in post offices.

(c) The progress made by the Department was given wide publicity through different mass media. During Postal Week, newspapers were full of postal news and All India Radio broad cast and Television telecast programmes on postal themes. Press conferences arranged on the occasion also helped in improving the image and through them the public were apprised about postal developments.

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14. ARPO 1868-69, p.21, ARPO 1974-75, p.12, ARPO 1976-77, p.17.

(d) Advertisements on themes of Philately, Postal Life Insurance, Post Office Savings Bank, postal stationery and Quick Mail Service were released so as to secure public co-operation to these activities.

(e) A folder *"How We Will Serve In Elections"* was brought out giving details of the facilities provided by the Department to political parties, candidates and press.

(f) On the advice of Universal Postal Union the Department conducted from time to time letter writing competitions for children in English, Hindi and regional languages. Wide publicity through press was given to this and co-operation of sections of State Education Departments and Directors of Public Institutions of State Governments was also solicited for this purpose.

(g) The general themes like *"Correct Addressing"* (including PIN code) and *"Post Early"* many current themes were also advertised through the press. The media of posters and folders as also of broadcast and television were utilised.

(h) The media of postal stationery and space in buildings for display of messages on commercial basis.

In 1975-76 AD, name badges were prescribed to be worn by the staff who come in contact with public for identification and personalised service.[15]

The use of ball point pen by the public was permitted from 16th August, 1975 AD for filling the forms tendered at post office for giving acquittance for payment of money order, for withdrawal from savings bank, and any other money received from post office, and for signing of cheques etc. Earlier ink pens were only allowed for transacting this business at the post office.[16] To tune public awareness, the Department introduced the National Postal Week. The Week commenced with the World Post Day falling on October 09. The Department established in 1990 AD two other platforms for contact with public namely Dak Adalat and Post Forum. While Dak Adalat is a quarterly assembly of aggrieved users at the Circle level for spot redressal of grievances, the Post Forum is a standing consultative body for designated post offices[17]

A notable development in the public relations of the post office is the adoption of corporate logo depicting two pairs of wings, in post office red with the legend *"Bharatiya Dak and Indian Post"*, the logo was introduced on the 9th of October 1993 AD.[18]

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15. ARPO 1975-76, p.6.

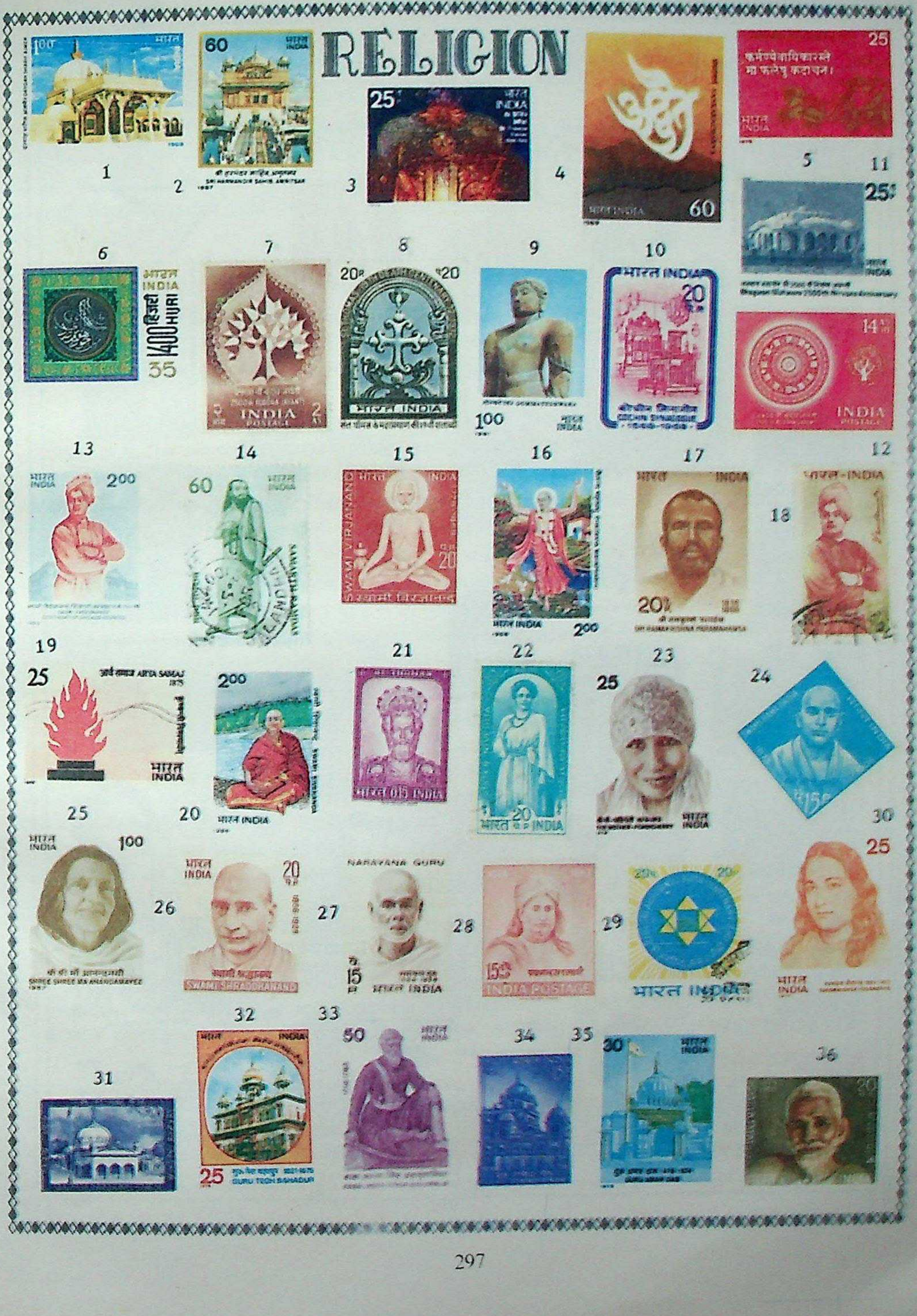
16. ARPO 1975-76, p.6.

17. ARPO 1989-90, p.28.

18. ARPO 1993-94, p.30.

19. Based on the annual reports of the Department for the corresponding years. Number of post offices are inclusive of Dist. post since 1874-75 AD.

PLATE 23


RELIGION
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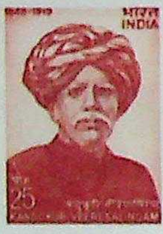
SRI HARMANDIR SAHIB AMRITSAR
ARYA SAMAJ
NARAYANA GURU
SWAMI SHRADDHANAND
SHREE SHREE MA ANANDAMAYEE
SWAMI VIRJANAND
SRI RAMAKRISHNA PARAMAHAMSA
GURU TEGH BAHADUR
INDIA POSTAGE

PLATE 24

SOCIAL / RELIGIOUS REFORMERS, WORKERS AND PHILANTROPHIC INSTITUTIONS

1

भारत INDIA
25

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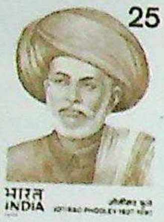
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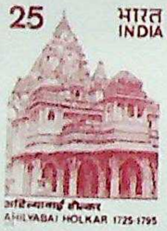
भारत INDIA
JOTIRAO PHOOLEY

3

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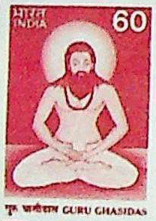
भारत INDIA
अहिल्याबाई होल्कर AHILYABAI HOLKAR 1725-1795

4

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60
गुरु घासीदास GURU GHASIDAS
1987

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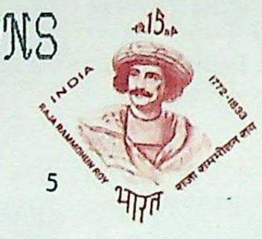
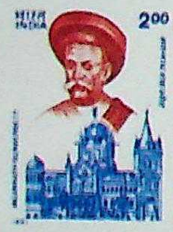

15 nP
INDIA
1772-1833
RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY
भारत

6

भारत INDIA
2.00

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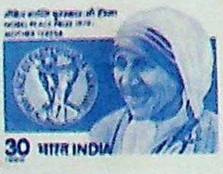
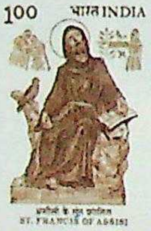
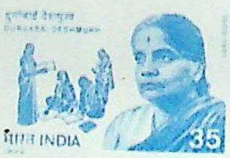

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1979 MOTHER TERESA
30 भारत INDIA

8

1.00
भारत INDIA
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

9

दुर्गाबाई देशमुख
DURGABAI DESHMUKH
भारत INDIA
35

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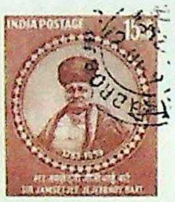
INDIA POSTAGE
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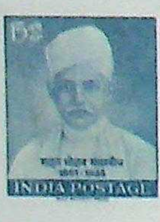
SIR JAMSETJEE JEJEEBHOY BART

11

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INDIA POSTAGE

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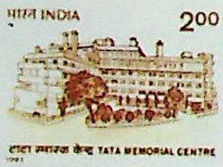
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2.00
टाटा स्मारक केंद्र TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

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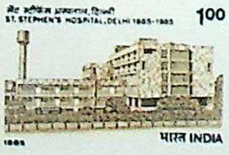
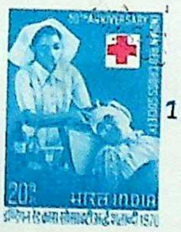

सेंट स्टीफेंस अस्पताल, दिल्ली
ST. STEPHEN'S HOSPITAL, DELHI 1885-1985
1.00
भारत INDIA

14

50th ANNIVERSARY
INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
20P
भारत INDIA
1970

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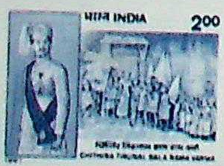
भारत INDIA
2.00
CHITHIRA THIRUNAL BALA RAMA VARMA

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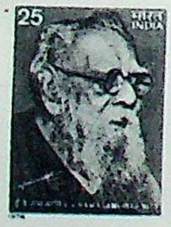
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भारत INDIA

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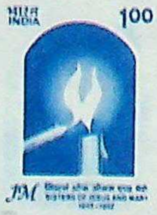
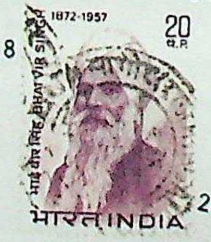

भारत INDIA
1.00
JM
SISTERS OF JESUS AND MARY

18

1872-1957
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भाई वीर सिंह BHAI VIR SINGH
भारत INDIA

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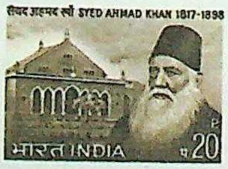
सैयद अहमद ख़ाँ SYED AHMAD KHAN 1817-1898
भारत INDIA
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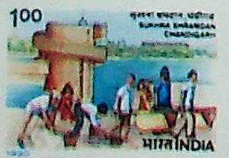
1.00
सुखना श्रमदान, चंडीगढ़
SUKHNA SHRAMDAN CHANDIGARH
भारत INDIA

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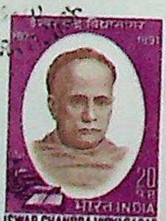
ईश्वर चंद्र विद्यासागर
20
भारत INDIA
ISWAR CHANDRA VIDYASAGAR

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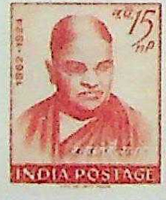
15 nP
INDIA POSTAGE

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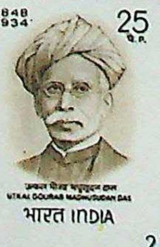
1848
1934
25
UTKAL GOURAB MADHUSUDAN DAS
भारत INDIA

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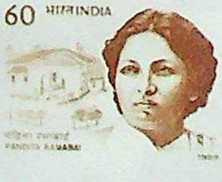
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PANDITA RAMABAI

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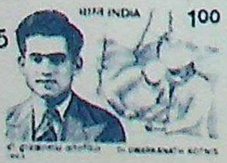
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1.00
DR. DWARKANATH KOTNIS

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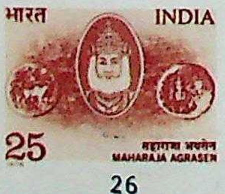
भारत
INDIA
25
महाराजा अग्रसेन
MAHARAJA AGRASEN

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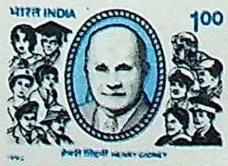
भारत INDIA
1.00
HENRY GIDNEY

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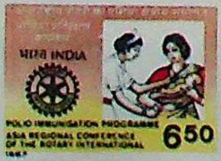
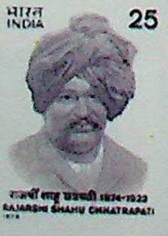

भारत INDIA
POLIO IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
ASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
6.50

29

भारत INDIA
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राजर्षि शाहू छत्रपति 1874-1922
RAJARSHI SHAHU CHHATRAPATI

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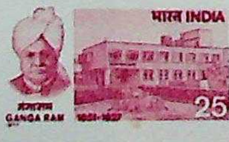
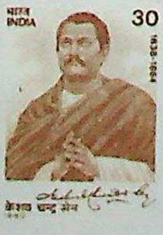

भारत INDIA
गंगाराम
GANGA RAM
1851-1927
25

31

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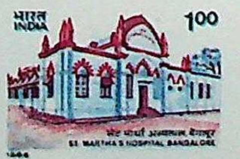
30
केशव चन्द्र सेन

32

भारत INDIA
1.00
ST. MARTHA'S HOSPITAL BANGALORE

Education and the Post Office

Literate Population Per Post Office

The growth in the number of post offices had kept pace with the state of education in India. Its growth rate was almost the same as that of the increase in the percentage of literate people in the country. On an average literate population of one thousand had always commanded the service of a post office throughout. This factor greatly affected the transformation of the network of post offices and the post office thus came closer to the inhabitants of the country. By 1953-54 AD on an average each post office served an area of 27.61 sq. miles and catered to the needs of 1290 literate persons. The all India averages of literate population per post office at the end of each decade have been enumerated in table No. XII.2.[19]

It could there be seen that the average literate population per post office was around one thousand. The spread of education leading the people to follow various occupations and their consequent migration to urban centres intimately affected the amount of correspondence handled by the post office, and ultimately resulted in increase in the network of post offices.

The ratio of growth rate of post offices to the increase in the percentage of literate population in the country was always the same throughout, vide table No. X.2. It confirms the assumption that the spread of education was the primary factor directly influencing the extension of network of post offices and conversely the postal development was intimately connected to the state of education in India.

Postal Service in Diffusion of Knowledge

The post office was in some way the intellectual stream of India. The uniform rate of postage on book post introduced in 1854 AD and further reduction in its postage charges and liberalisation of its conditions from time to time facilitated the trade in literary and artistic property.

The literary movement in some of the Indian languages beginning from the second half of the nineteenth century exhibited the common tendencies in the development of the Indian mind all over the country. The literature of the period that followed reflected the life of society and was an invaluable record of the changes that took place in the society. The religious, social and political movements gave an impetus to the production of such literature in the country.[20] In other words the literature thus produced was the record of social and intellectual transformation of the society.

The middle-class increasingly took to English education and was benefited by the Western philosophy, science and literature across the seventeenth to the nineteenth century. The new literature produced by this class of men reflected the currents of new feeling and thought. Critical editions of ancient classics, translation of English works and compilation of dictionaries appeared in regional languages. Biographies and history received attention from a number of writers. Historical, social, romantic and patriotic motifs became popular in literature in local languages. A number of journals that sprang up nourished and enriched the local languages.[21]

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[20] Edited by De Souza, J.P. and Kulkarni C.M., "Historiography in Indian Languages", pp.13-21,77-79,96.

[21] ibid, pp.158,164.

The system of marketing by post, the value payable system and the book-post system facilitated the cheap and convenient way of conveying by post. The book post system became a means through which the intellectual currents of the time spread to the remote areas of the country. The book post service ably served the educational needs of the society and assisted in intellectual growth of the country. The post office assisted the native community with the cultural, historical and social organic unity in developing a common outlook and in its transformation into a community of ideas and sentiments, the pre-requisite conditions for the emergence of national consciousness.

The Role of Post Office in Political Education of the Masses

The post office by virtue of its universal presence assisted in imparting political education to the masses in India. So long as they could not communicate with one another easily and speedily, there could arise no common patriotic sentiment, no common public opinion and no unity of action among Indian masses speaking various dialects and scattered in various regions and interiors of the country. The development of postal services made this communication and intercourse between different parts of the country possible, therefore, ably assisted in the evolution of character and transformation of the national consciousness.

The indigenous newspapers both vernacular and English circulated even to the remotest areas through the post office powerfully affected the process of national thought, understanding and unification. The range of circulation of the vernacular newspapers was greatly increased with the extension of the postal network over the years.[22]

In 1854 AD, the other function of the post office business besides conveyance of mails comprised of conveyance of goods and passengers. The long chain of its bullock cart train involved in its main stream various segments of the society. It paved a way in bringing closer the people in the different parts of the country especially in Northern and Central India and was a means to enlighten them with the exploitation to which the community was subjected to by the economic exploitation of the colonial power. During the Revolt of 1857 AD the discontented and oppressed peasants and artisans attacked and completely disorganised these Bullock cart trains and the mail lines which were the main targets in the entire North and Central India.[23]

The newspapers circulated through post enlightened and educated the people about the policies and measures of the Government. About six lakhs of newspapers both foreign and indigenous produce were in circulation during 1857-58 AD.[24] During the Revolt of 1857 A.D, the Urdu and Persian newspapers especially of Delhi and Punjab played an important role in the dissemination of anti-British feelings and in arousing the people against the Government.[25]

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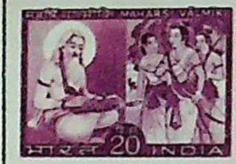
22. ARPO 1874-75,p.29. 23. ARPO 1874-75, p.6. 24. ibid.

PLATE 25

WRITERS, POETS, PHILOSOPHERS AND THINKERS

1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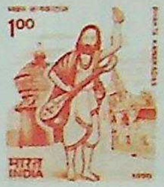
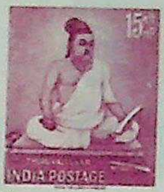
भारत 20 INDIA

2


1.00
भारत INDIA

3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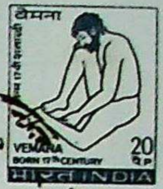
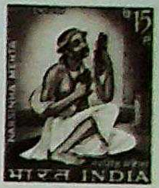
INDIA POSTAGE

4


वेमना
VEMANA
BORN 17th CENTURY
20
भारत INDIA

5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भारत INDIA

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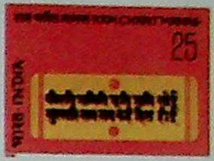
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भारत INDIA

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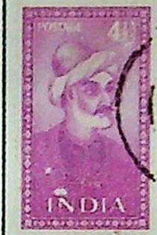
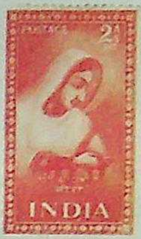
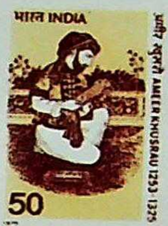

POSTAGE
INDIA

8


POSTAGE
INDIA

9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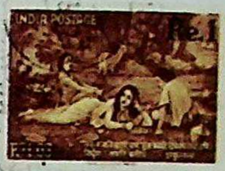
AMEER KHUSRAU 1253-1325
50

10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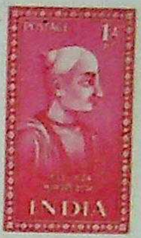
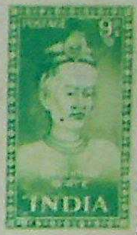
Re.1

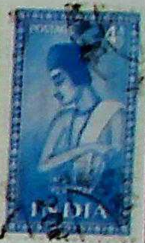
11


POSTAGE
INDIA

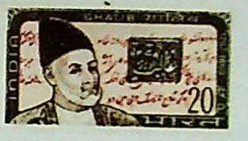
12


POSTAGE
INDIA

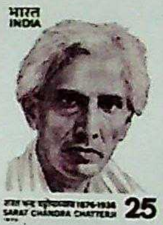
13


POSTAGE
INDIA

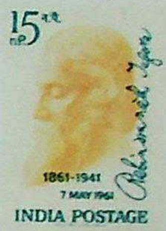
14


GHALIB
INDIA
20
भारत

15


भारत INDIA
SARAT CHANDRA CHATTERJI
25

16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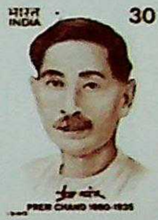
1861-1941
7 MAY 1961
INDIA POSTAGE

17 30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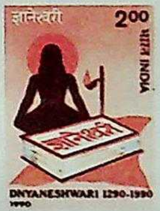
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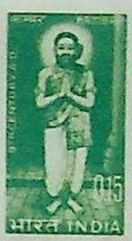
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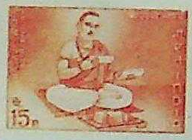

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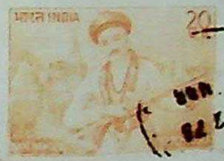
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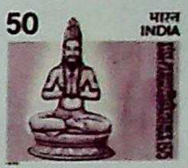
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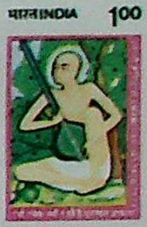
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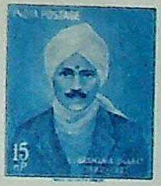
INDIA POSTAGE
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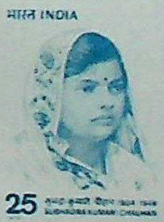
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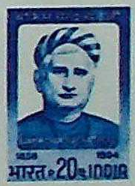
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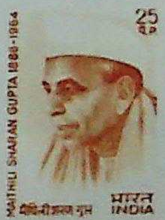
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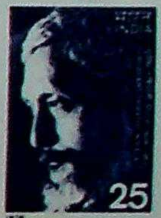
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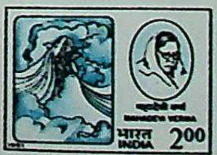
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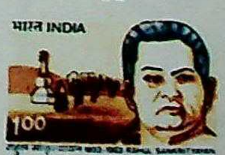
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RAHUL SANKRITYAYAN

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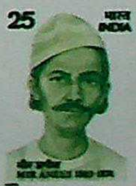
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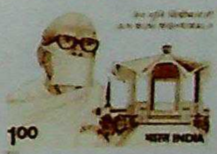
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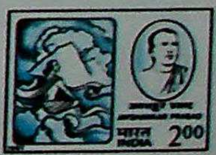
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PLATE 26

ART AND ARTISTS

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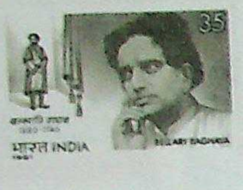
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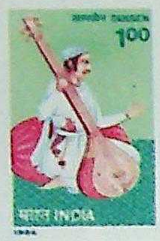
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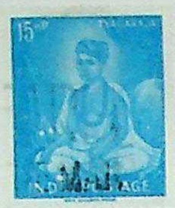

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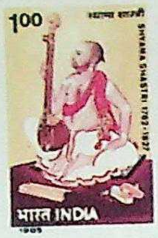
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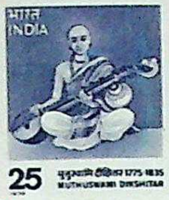
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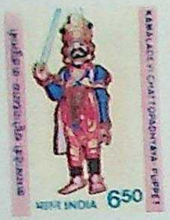
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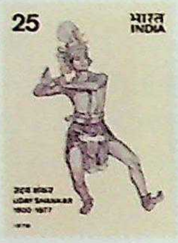
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UDAY SHANKAR 1900-1977

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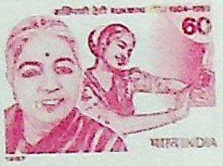
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भारत INDIA

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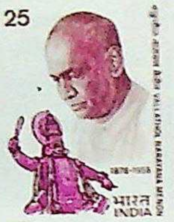
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VALLATHOL NARAYANA MENON
1878-1958
भारत INDIA

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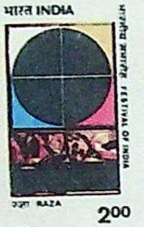
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FESTIVAL OF INDIA
RAZA
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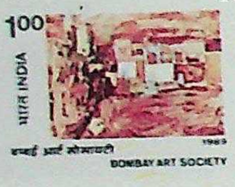
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BOMBAY ART SOCIETY

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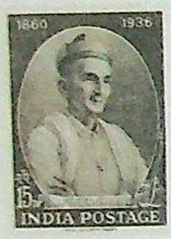
1860 1936
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INDIA POSTAGE

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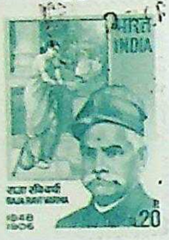
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1848 1906
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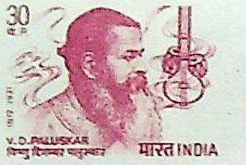
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V. D. PALUSKAR
भारत INDIA

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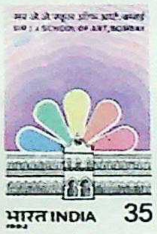
SIR J.J. SCHOOL OF ART, BOMBAY
भारत INDIA 35

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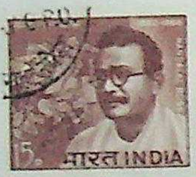
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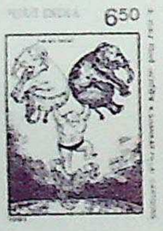

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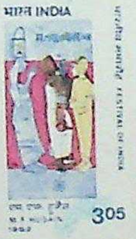
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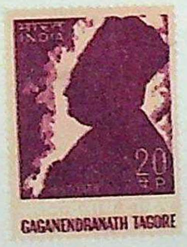
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GAGANENDRANATH TAGORE

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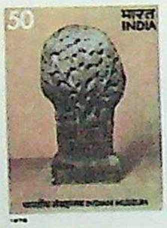
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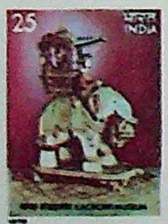
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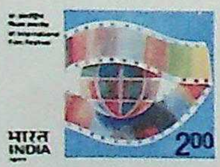
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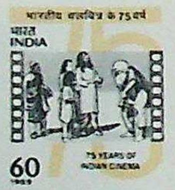
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75 YEARS OF INDIAN CINEMA

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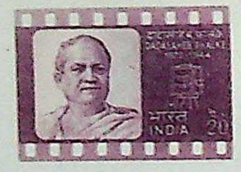
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भारत INDIA 20

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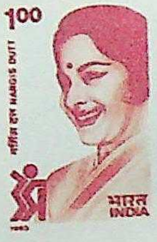
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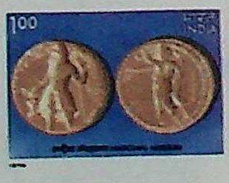
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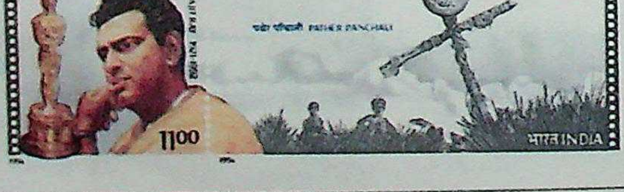
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SATYAJIT RAY 1921-1992
PATHER PANCHALI
6.00
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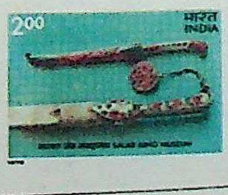
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भारत INDIA
SALAR JUNG MUSEUM

The uprising of 1857 AD was a general movement of traditional elite and soldiers and was the last attempt to recover its departed glory.[26] With the passing of this event, the new force started to work for construction and establishment of a new order to fight oust the organised modern power and the Indian press both English and vernacular gave a strong impetus to the national movement.

During 1872-73 AD there were in all 430 registered newspapers in India of which 255 were published exclusively in vernacular languages.[27] Their circulation which was assumed to be about 700 on an average was not large but that was not a true measure of the extent of their influence as each paper was read by many readers.[28] The newspaper reaching a village post office became a matter of hot debate among the villagers who gathered at the post office, a popular place of meeting where people assembled to hear the news and discuss common matters of interest.[29]

The contents of a single copy of newspaper reaching a village or even a large collection of villages, became known to nearly every man residing in the neighbourhood. Each copy of an Indian paper was circulated for a much longer time, and with a much wider range. The date of a paper went for nothing among the natives and it continued to be read as long as it held together.

In 1873 AD, about only a 2 percent of the population of the country was estimated to have obtained intelligence of some sort through the public press.[30] By 1880 AD the vernacular press underwent an extensive development in numbers and radically altered its tone.[31] By then, the vernacular papers were universally read by every chief, and by every high official and the great men, in every one of the numerous native states of India. They were read by all the innumerable native employees of British administration, by the students and teachers in all the thousands of schools and colleges, and by a very large proportion of the great landed proprietors and rich merchants and bankers throughout the country.[32] Through these classes the vernacular press which was studied filtered down to and largely influenced a very considerable fraction of masses of the people. The multiplication of vernacular presses was with the encouragement they received on account of reduction of postage. The facility of receiving the published matter at the door-steps under the value-payable system introduced in 1877 AD encouraged people purchase the published matter and newspapers. The total circulation of newspapers was estimated to be about 150,000 in 1880 AD.[33]

The activities of the educated middle-class were found reflected in the newspapers manned by the members of this class. Through these native newspapers, the middle class acquired influence among the Indian people. The Indian owned English newspapers supplied news and viewed at the English educated class of the province, and brought the educated classes in all the provinces of India into a single community which shared common thought and emotions. The Indian language spread the same ideas and sentiments among much wider sections of the people. The two together moulded the country into a national unity.

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25. Calcutta Review. April 1908. pp.208-9.

26. Ishtehar."Manifesto" of Bahadurshah. the last Delhi Emperor of the Mughal dynasty. first issued in Azamgarh and subsequently published in the Delhi gazette on the 29th September.1857 cited in Ball. C. The History of the Indian Mutiny (London) Vol.. II. p.418 and quoted in Tarachand. History of Freedom Movement of India. Vol.II. p.44.

27. ARPO 1872-73. pp.6-7.

28. Ibid.

29. Finance and Commerce. A.762-765 of August. 1892. p.762.

The Indian newspapers criticised the exclusion of Indians from higher services and the total denial of the Indians claim to a share in policy making and legislation.

The severity of the famine of 1896-97 AD which affected almost every part of the sub-continent with the loss of many lives and which was followed by the out break of bubonic plague and other epidemics resulted into a toll of more than 51 lakhs of lives and stirred the deeps of the masses of Indian humanity.[34] This led to the further estrangement of the relations between the Government and the people. Interest in religious and social reforms which was till then dominant, was discarded and the interest in politics occupied more and more the notice and consideration of the press.

The press assisted in mobilising public opinion, conveying provincial and national conferences, organising political movements, building up public institutions and fighting out public controversies.[35] The press was an important political institution and by conveying the newspapers to the people living even in the remote villages the post office became the principal means of political education.

The echoes of the utterances of the native papers did not reach the officials of the British Government unless sought out in the discharge of duty, for the vernacular press was absolutely unknown to Englishmen in India except to officials who read it as a matter of duty, and perhaps to a few professors and missionaries.[36]

With the rise of political awareness among the masses, a need arose to exercise check over the political propaganda against the alien Government passing through the mail and the censorship of mails came to be introduced.

Censorship of Mails

In the establishment of a post office, besides the benefit to the better administration, the commerce and the convenience of carrying public despatches was also conceived the idea of it being the best means of discovering and preventing many dangerous and wicked designs against the governed. In the present case, however, to protect and safeguard the interest of the alien power.

Initially, the power to open and detain letters passing through the post, had not been reserved to government under any statute, and no legal power of doing this vested in any authority in India.[37] The tendency of the native press around 1876 AD in criticising the works of Government and the intentions and motives of public officers in a seditious spirit, led to the passing of Vernacular Press Act, 1878 AD.[38] The said Act empowered the

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30. ARPO 1872-73, pp.6-7.

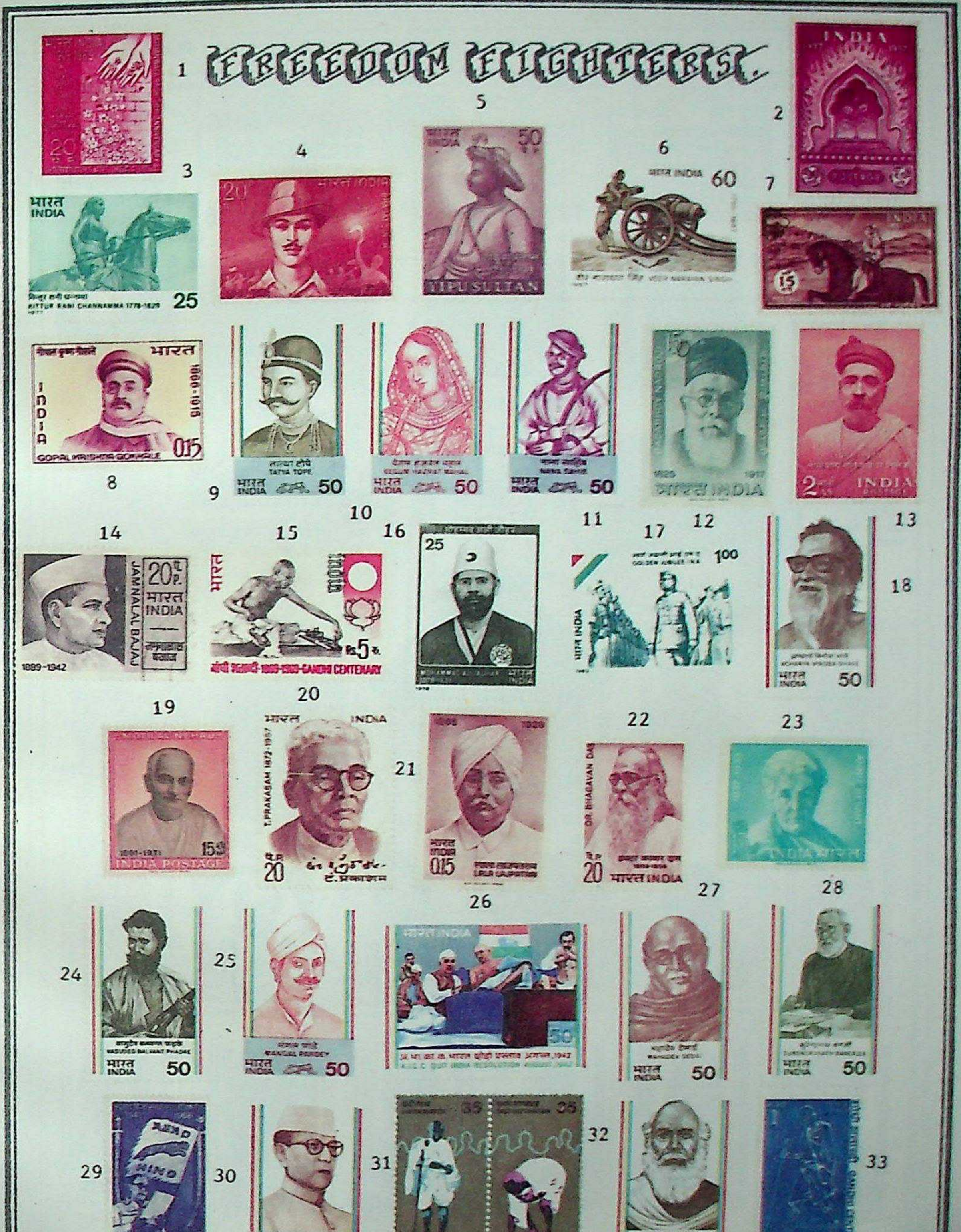
31. Roper, L. The Vernacular Press of India, Contemporary Review, XXXVII (Jan-June 188), pp. 462-63 quoted in Ceceil Merna Putnam Cross, The Development of Self Government in India (1858-1914), pp.79.

32. Ibid, p.80. 33. ARPO 1884-85, p.5. 34. Cecil Merne Putnam Cross, Op. cit., p.185.

35. Ibid, p.187. 36. Ibid, pp.79-80.

37. Finance and Commerce, Separate Revenue, A.579-585 of May 1883, KWs, p.11. The power of the Crown to open and detain a letter passing through post office existed since the establishment of the regular post office in Britain in 1657 AD and was also defended. 38. Ibid, p.12.

PLATE 27


FREEDOM FIGHTERS.
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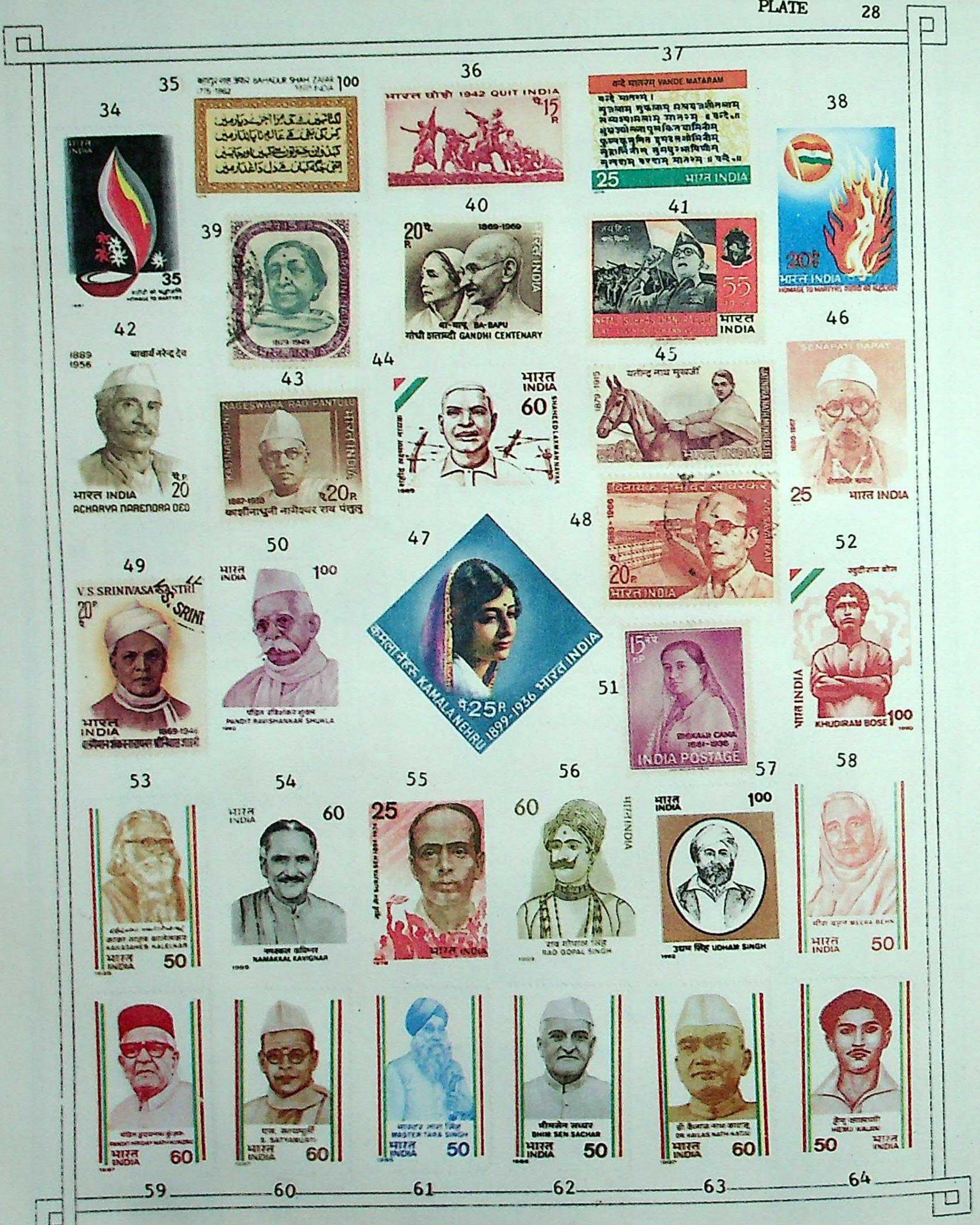
KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA 1778-1829
TIPU SULTAN
GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE
TATYA TOPE
BEGUM HAZRAT MAHAL
NANA SAHIB
JAMNALAL BAJAJ
1889-1942
GANDHI CENTENARY
GOLDEN JUBILEE I.N.A.
ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE
T. PRAKASAM 1872-1957
LALA LAJPATRAI
DR. BHAGAVAN DAS
INDIA POSTAGE
VASUDEO BALVANT PHADKE
MANGAL PANDEY
A.I.C.C. QUIT INDIA RESOLUTION AUGUST 1942
MAHADEV DESAI
SURENDRANATH BANERJEE
ASAF ALI
BABA KHARAK SINGH
भारत INDIA

PLATE 28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35
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR
100
36
1942 QUIT INDIA
15
37
VANDE MATARAM
25
भारत INDIA
38
20
भारत INDIA
HOMAGE TO MARTYRS
35
HOMAGE TO MARTYRS
39
40
20
1869-1969
BA-BAPU
GANDHI CENTENARY
41
55
INDIA
42
1889
1956
भारत INDIA
20
ACHARYA NARENDRA DEO
43
NAGESWARA RAO PANTULU
20
44
भारत
INDIA
60
45
46
SENAPATI BAPAT
25
भारत INDIA
47
KAMALA NEHRU
25
1899-1936
भारत INDIA
48
20
भारत INDIA
49
V.S.SRINIVASA SASTRI
20
INDIA
1869-1946
50
भारत
INDIA
100
PANDIT RAVISHANKAR SHUKLA
51
15
INDIA POSTAGE
52
KHUDIRAM BOSE
100
भारत INDIA
53
KAKASAHEB KALELKAR
50
INDIA
54
भारत
INDIA
60
NAMAKKAL KAVIGNAR
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25
भारत INDIA
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INDIA
RAO GOPAL SINGH
57
भारत
INDIA
100
UDHAM SINGH
58
MEERA BEHN
भारत
INDIA
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59
भारत
INDIA
60
60
S. SATYAMURTI
भारत
INDIA
60
61
MASTER TARA SINGH
भारत
INDIA
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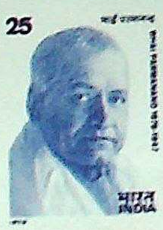
62
BHIM SEN SACHAR
भारत
INDIA
50
63
DR KAILAS NATH KATJU
भारत
INDIA
60
64
HEMU KALANI
50
भारत
INDIA

PLATE 29

65


25
भारत INDIA

66

15 nP
1877-1928
भारत INDIA

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भारत INDIA
25

68

भारत INDIA
VITHALBHAI PATEL
50

69

INDIA भारत
1.00

70

भारत INDIA
25

71

भारत INDIA
BISHNU RAM MEDHI
60

72

20
1872-1936
भारत INDIA

73

1.00
भारत INDIA
KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN

74

1.00
भारत INDIA
CHANDRA SINGH GARHWALI

75

भारत INDIA
ACHARYA KRIPALANI
60

76

भारत INDIA
1.00

77

VEER SURENDRA SAI
भारत INDIA
50

78

HAKIM AJMAL KHAN
भारत INDIA
60

79

ALLURI SEETARAMA RAJU
भारत INDIA
50

80

60
भारत INDIA

81

RAVISHANKAR MAHARAJ
भारत INDIA
50

82

HARE KRUSHNA MAHTAB
भारत INDIA
60

83

भारत INDIA
60

84

LALA HAR DAYAL
भारत INDIA
60

85

SAGARMAL GOPA
भारत INDIA
50

86

भारत INDIA
50

87

भारत INDIA
1.00
DR. SAMPURNANAND

88

भारत INDIA
6.00

89

भारत INDIA
50
PURUSHOTTAMDAS TANDON 1882-1962

90

भारत INDIA
50

60
भारत INDIA
SHYAMJI KRISHNA VARMA

91

T. RAMASWAMY CHOWDARY
भारत INDIA
60

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भारत INDIA
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भारत INDIA
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भारत INDIA
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1.00
भारत INDIA

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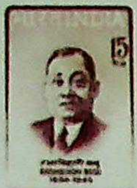
PLATE 30

97



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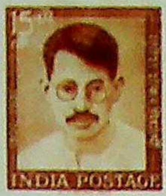
INDIA POSTAGE

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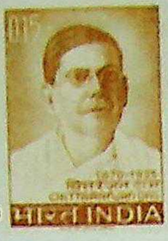

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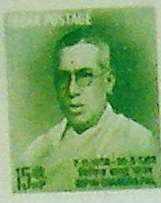
INDIA POSTAGE

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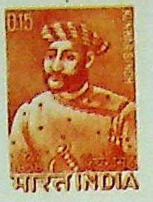

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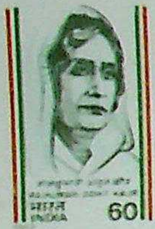

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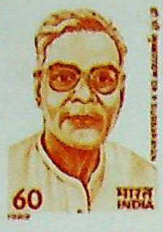

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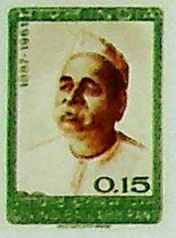

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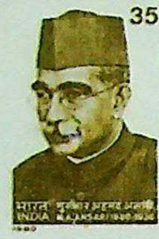

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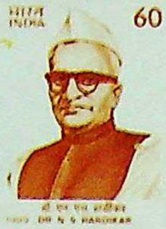

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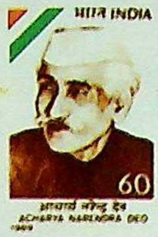
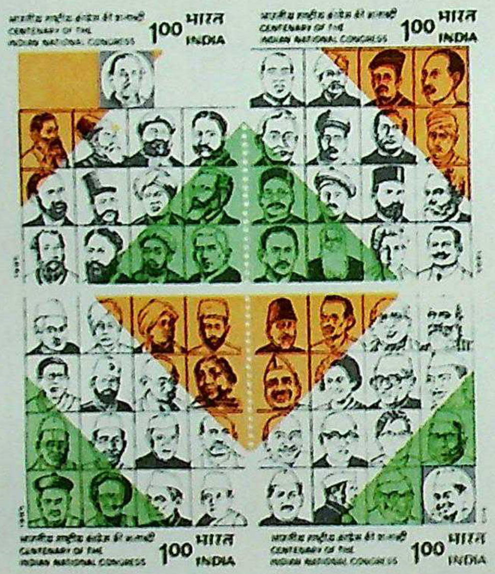
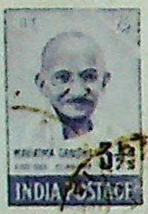

ACHARYA NARENDRA DEO

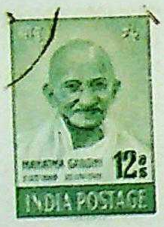
108


CENTENARY OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS
1.00 भारत INDIA

109


MAHATMA GANDHI
INDIA POSTAGE

111


MAHATMA GANDHI
INDIA POSTAGE

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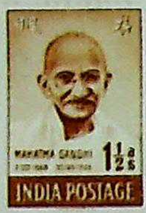
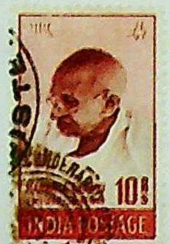

MAHATMA GANDHI
INDIA POSTAGE

112


INDIA POSTAGE

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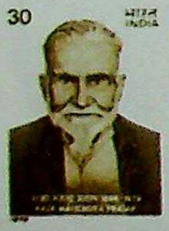

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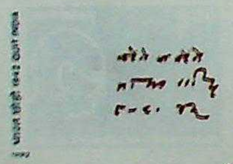

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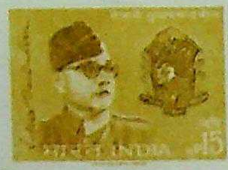

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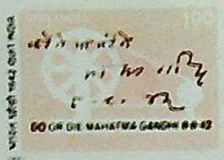
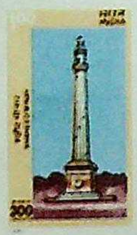

60 OR DIE MAHATMA GANDHI 8-8-42

117



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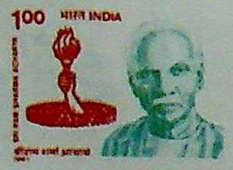

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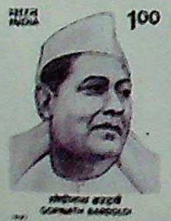

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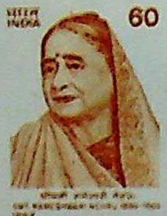

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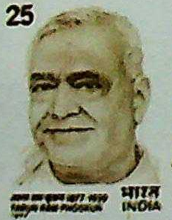

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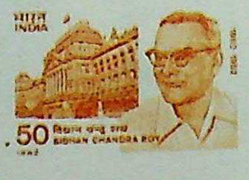
BIDHAN CHANDRA ROY

magistrates to require the editors of Indian newspapers either to give a bond not to publish objectionable matter or to submit the proof sheets before publication for scrutiny. The Act was repealed in 1882 AD and by the promulgation of Seditious publications Act, (III) of 1882 AD Section 60-A, was added to the Indian Post Office Act 1866 AD authorising any officer of the post office empowered in this behalf by the Governor General in Council, to search for newspapers regarding which a notification had been published under the Sea Customs Act.[39] Censorship and restrictions on the native press were exercised.

The growing political consciousness led the authorities to think over the statutory powers under the existing laws for interception and detention of public mail.[40] An opportunity was utilised while passing the post office Act of 1898 AD to introduce Sections 20 and 23 of the Act to impose prohibition on transmission of seditious or gross offensive matter and to empower the officers of the post office to deal with postal articles posted in contravention of the said provisions. This resulted in interference with legitimate discussion of public measures and of the government with the freedom of the press. Section 26 of the said Act empowered the Government to order, in certain cases, the interception of postal articles.[41]

With the intention of stopping circulation by post of the European, Central Asian and native publications containing revolutionary writings and propaganda, Act No.III of 1912 AD was brought into force as an amendment to the post office Act of 1898 AD The postal authorities were adequately empowered to decide, detain and dispose off the publications considered to be of seditious nature.[42] The intercepted publications passing through the Imperial Post Offices in the Native states were required to be made over to the Political officers of the States for further disposal.[43] But a stage had already been set up when the platform was coming into use besides the press and publications to awaken the people.

Detention of seditious literature reaching India from Europe addressed to students was ordered in 1910 AD. All kinds of articles addressed to students of any college, school or class generally and without name or generally without name to hostels or messes or clubs connected with schools or colleges were ordered to be intercepted in course of transmission and to be handed over to the Crime Branch.[44]

During 1912 AD the Postmasters General were delegated with the powers of deciding and intercepting the postal articles containing the seditious words.[45] With the spread of political unrest after 1919 AD these powers were directed and exercised upon the correspondence of the natives indulging in liberation movement.[46] The Britishers were restrictive in introducing and exercising these measures and did not encroach upon the private rights of the general public with the exception of the freedom fighters with regard to their correspondence.

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39. Act III of 1882, p.1. 40. Finance & Commerce, Sep. Rev. A.579-585 of May 1883, KWS, pp.11-12.
41. Post Office Act of 1898, p.2.
42. Act III of Ist March 1912, Commerce & Industry, Post Office, File No.2/13 of (Srl.25) of February 1918 & File No.1-2 of June 1919, pp.2-3.
43. Foreign, Secret I, No.2 of June 1910, pp.1-2. 44. Ibid.
45 Public Works, Post Office, File Nos.9-10 of November 1921, p.1 and Section of Act III of 1912.
46. Ibid.

The practice of censorship was continued even after the achievement of independence and as alleged by the Member of Parliament of a non-ruling party in 1954 AD his letters were tampered with before delivery. He had alleged that it was in his own presence, all his letters were made over to the C.I.D. personnel and only after censoring was done by them, they were delivered to him, in a democratic welfare state.[47]

With all the constraints imposed on the circulation of indigenous newspapers, interception and detention of certain postal articles followed by harsh legal, judicial and administrative measures to quell, the aspirations of the nation struggling to unite in its fight for freedom could not be curbed and apart from other factors the post office also played a significant role in awakening and uniting the masses in their struggle for freedom.

Social Life and the Post Office

The gradual expansion of the modern means of communication, the Imperial postal service, and the amalgamation of various postal systems tended to bring closer all the British Indian provinces and promoted regional interdependence and change in social outlook.

It served as a transport company also by conveying the goods and personnel till the railway lines were completely established. It also acted as a source to educate and enlighten the native community about the transformation that was taking place in the society.

Indian are serious and introspective people, perhaps the most serious in the world. Their seriousness had led them into religious extremes and some customs hardly defensible by reasons.[48] The impact of the alien civilisation and the momentum of India's own inner life, animated the spirit of new Indian society. The British policy of not evincing interest in imparting Indians with the knowledge of mechanical and technical arts and its preference to introduce the Science and literature of the West prompted the Indian mind to re-interpret its tradition and aided in its endeavour for improving the intellect and morale. The result was the social abuses of Indian society, notably the degradation of women and the rigorous of caste was denounced by social reformers and national leaders through press and platform.[49] The 'suttee,' the self-immolation of widows and the female infanticide came to be halted. The Merial sacrifice, the horrible rite and sacrifice of young human victims for the propitiation of special divinity which presided over the fertility of the earth prevailed among the hill and jungle tribes of the province of Orissa and was eradicated. The Sarada Act of 1930 AD designed to removing the abuses of child marriage also received support by the liberals and press.[50] Toleration of all races and religions also developed and thereby the improvements of security to persons and property.

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47. Parliamentary Debates of 1st April, 1954, p.3820. Allegations levelled in Parliament by Mr. T.B.Vittal Rao, Member of Parliament of Communist Party from Singereni Colleries. Post Office.

48. Woodruff, Philip. The men who ruled India. The Guardians, p.117.

49. Kennedy, J., Indian Educational Policy, published in Imperial and Asiatic Quarterly Review, 3rd Ser., XIV(1905). p.3 cited in Cecil Merne Putnam Cross, The Development of self Government in India, 1858-1914, p.84. William Roy Smith, Nationalism and Reform in India, p.264.

50. ibid, p.245.

The conflict of traditional Indian ways of thought and re-action with Western Culture which agitated the Indian mind led to improve its intellectual faculty and influenced all departments of national life, namely, religious, morals, social system and politics.

The improvements brought about in the means of transport and communication resulted in such a diffusion of population that the residents of each province included immigrants from almost other province by the penultimate decade of the 19th century AD.

The Indian society both in rural and urban areas was represented by two distinct classes, namely, on one side millions of the poorer classes and the upper strata of the new agrarian society in villages and on the other the numerous humble craftsmen and workers in the towns eking out a subhuman existence and a comparatively growing well-to-do class engaged in business, trade, industry and the professions in the towns. The working conditions of these sections of the society and their needs led for more interaction. The easy and developed means of communications, the postal service, influenced the social evolution of India and affected the process of wading off of the traditional exclusiveness and weakening of the hold of old customs and beliefs.

The postal money order system was largely used by the poorer classes, native soldiers, police constables. labourers on railway works,coolies on tea gardens and immigrants to other provinces.[51] During the famine period there was an increase in money order transactions, owing to emigrant labourers and servants and others making a larger use of the system than used for the purpose of sending remittances to their homes in the famine stricken tracts.[52] During the famines, some temporary post offices were opened and additional mail services were organised to serve the various relief camps.[53]

The post office also served as a sales agent of quinine, the English medicine for eradication of the epidemic Malaria since 1892 AD.[54] As a banker, the post office Savings Bank made it possible to the lower classes of population to have the safe deposit of their savings and earn interest on it and thereby improve their financial conditions.[55]

Nation-building in India needed discovering and nurturing the germs of unity among its diverse elements. The advanced modern-minded Indian leaders made a contribution to the emergence of a free and progressive India by contributing articles in various journals.[56] Their ideas were conveyed by the hundreds of newspapers which had sprang up in regional languages and the national press fostered the ideas of national unity.[57] The facility provided by the Postal Department in transmitting the newspapers at cheaper rates helped in the expansion of national consciousness among the wide range of people throughout the country.

In philately, as in other fields of national life, India was far behind other countries during alien rule. The post-Independence period has witnessed both qualitative and quantitative growth of this activity. The role played by postage stamps in national integration is not insignificant. They serve as ambassadors of goodwill not only between nations but within a nation as well.

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51. Report of the S.C., P.S.C. 1887. p.43. 52. ARPO 1897-98. p.1. 53. ARPO 1899-1900. p.2.
54. Finance and Commerce, A.762-765 of August, 1892, p.762. 55. ibid. 56. ibid. 57. ibid.

Stamps depict a variety of themes reflecting, among other things, the historical and cultural heritage and aspirations of the people. They help educate people on the various facets of a nation's life and create a sense of pride and oneness among the people.

Army Postal Service (APS) as an important adjunct of the Armed Forces, play a leading role as a back-up for the defence services in their vital duty of safeguarding the country's sovereignty and integrity. The APS has played a laudable role in keeping the morale of the jawans high in critical war periods.

The Post Office is thus a major unifying and integrating force for any country. Telecommunication facilities have made rapid strides in the recent past. Yet to millions of commoners the post remains as the mainstay of communications strengthening the filial bonds and fraternal ties.[58]

The independent India inherited an established and useful postal system as an asset and expanded it as a national postal network. The postal department played a significant role with the massive problems, in organising relief and re-habilitation to several million refugees soon after the transfer of power.

The focus of the Indian Post Office during the post-Independence period has been on the development of the rural postal network. The restrictions on the opening of new post offices were removed. With the ushering of the era of Five year plans, attention was paid to take the stream of postal development to the backward, hilly and under-developed areas of the country. This strategy is in tune with the social structure of the country. The great majority of our population still live in villages. The extension of the postal network in the rural areas has been facilitated by the liberal policy of the Government according to which, new post offices are opened not only where they are economically justified; they are opened more often when they are not remunerative but serve the broader interests of the rural public. The operating losses of such rural post offices are borne by the Government up to certain limits so that an essential public utility can be provided. In the past several years, the total operating losses of the postal services in running unremunerative post offices in the rural areas has been in crores of rupees every year. The better linked postal network helped in the transformation of the Indian Society. The network of post offices in every nook and corner of the country constituted a necessary condition for the cultural, social and economic development of the nation. The post office which was once a symbol of the Imperial power even when located in the remotest parts of the country became transformed into an institution for public service and national growth.

The rapid growth of population, the reorganisation of the administrative systems in rural areas, the rise in the education and living standard and the growing economic and commercial needs of the nation were all benefited with the provision of a quick and cheap mass communication service namely the Indian post office.

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[58] Menon, A.V.B., in an article entitled "The Post Office and National Integration"- Dak Tar.

Postal Service in Economic Development

Proper communication system is a pre-requisite condition for the proper growth of agriculture, trade and industry, the basic features of Indian economy. The economic prosperity of India depended on the policies of the alien power governing the country. The efforts of the State were concentrated on the improvement of communications or on facilitating the flow of trade which continued, under the conditions to consist mainly exports of Indian raw materials and imports of foreign manufactured goods.[59]

The transformation of postal system on all-India basis brought about the emergence of a national economy and unity of India in one economic system. The penetration of postal network into the interiors and multiplication of its functions revolutionised the activities of the urban commercial centres and led to the transformation of rural economy. During the post-independence period, trade and industry did progress, but agriculture which occupied a main place in the economy of India advanced more comparatively.

Agriculture

The largest portion of the natural resources of India consists of land and by far the larger proportion of its inhabitants continued to be engaged in the exploitation of land. In the economic development of the country, therefore, agricultural development held a position of basic importance.

Every Indian village not only grew most of its food, but either provided from its own resources or obtained from close at hand its few simple wants.[60] Indian industries were mainly based on agricultural products. More than ninety percent of India's population in 1854 AD and during the following several decades lived in villages.[61]

Though there was agricultural prosperity, the extortion of middle-men that had emerged in the country-side who lived on agricultural debts and rent from agricultural land deteriorated the conditions of the primary products. There were few land reforms and a large scale absentee landlordism continued. The foreign investors and the few others were enriched but the vast majority sunk further into poverty and misery.[62] All this resulted into disruption of old agrarian structure and creation of a new social order. The village artisans who had lost their customary ties with the agricultural population came to constitute the landless wage-earning class. Even the village leather worker was affected and started disappearing under the competition of organised foreign industries.[63]

The concentration on land aggravated by the decay of village industries which compelled many rural workers from occupational castes to abandon their traditional occupations and take to cultivation. Further the frequent visit of famines took a heavy toll of human life, retarded agricultural progress and the loss of live-stock hampered recovery.

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[59] Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.2.
[60] Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.2.
[61] Ibid, pp.2-4.
[62] Ibid, p.16.
[63] Industrial Commission, 1916-18, 16.

The growth of foreign trade enriched the classes participating in it. The industry and commerce in all the Chief Indian centres was in the hands of mainly Europeans.[64] The opening up of the village in search of valuable commercial crops resulted in raising of commercial crops to the cultivation of good crops. It was after the visit of the later famines from 1895 AD to 1900 AD that the production of industrial and export crops were to certain extent displaced by food-grains.[65] Yet the agricultural products of the country continued to form the major exporting items from India. The British Government interested in exploitation of agricultural produces extended the network of post offices into the interiors of the country, to serve its commercial needs.

Trade

The East India Company whose agents first set foot in India at a time when the earliest beginnings of Industrial movement was to exchange as far as possible manufactured goods of England for Indian products.[66]

With the political subjugation of India, the Company used its political power for driving out its rival merchants from trade. The improvements of communications were aimed at facilitating trade, which continued, to consist mainly exports of Indian raw materials and imports of foreign manufactured goods.[67] The military and civil administration was also used more for the benefit of England than for the development of the resources of India and the enrichment of its people. The result of outflow of wealth from India helped in the process of British economic development in the initial stages of the Industrial Revolution and ultimately ruined the textile industry of India.[68]

The alien-government endeavoured to discover, bring to use and exploit, the hidden resources of the Indian territories, namely, their Salt manufacture, commerce, cotton, tea, forests, mineral resources e.g., coal and iron and opened up the interiors of the country and increased the postal communication between various districts and provinces. The English exporters and manufacturers economically exploited the country.[69]

The high artistic skill of Indian craftsmen and the industrial development of India was protected and controlled across the centuries by the Indian caste system functioning as guilds.[70]he commercial policy of the Alien-government was dictated by the textile interest of England, which viewed with concern the growth of cotton mill industry in India.[71] The influence of imported mill-made piece-goods prejudicially affected the communities of weavers scattered over the country in the towns and larger villages.[72] The British economic imperialism promoted the unrequited exports and the annual drain of wealth from India impoverished the country. The per capita income in India fell, in terms of paddy from 32 rupees in 1850 AD to 12 rupees 7 annas in 1901 AD.[73]

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[64] Ibid, p.8. [65] Ibid, pp.8-9. [66] Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.2.

[67] Ibid, p.2. [68] Starchy, The End of Empire, pp.41-63.

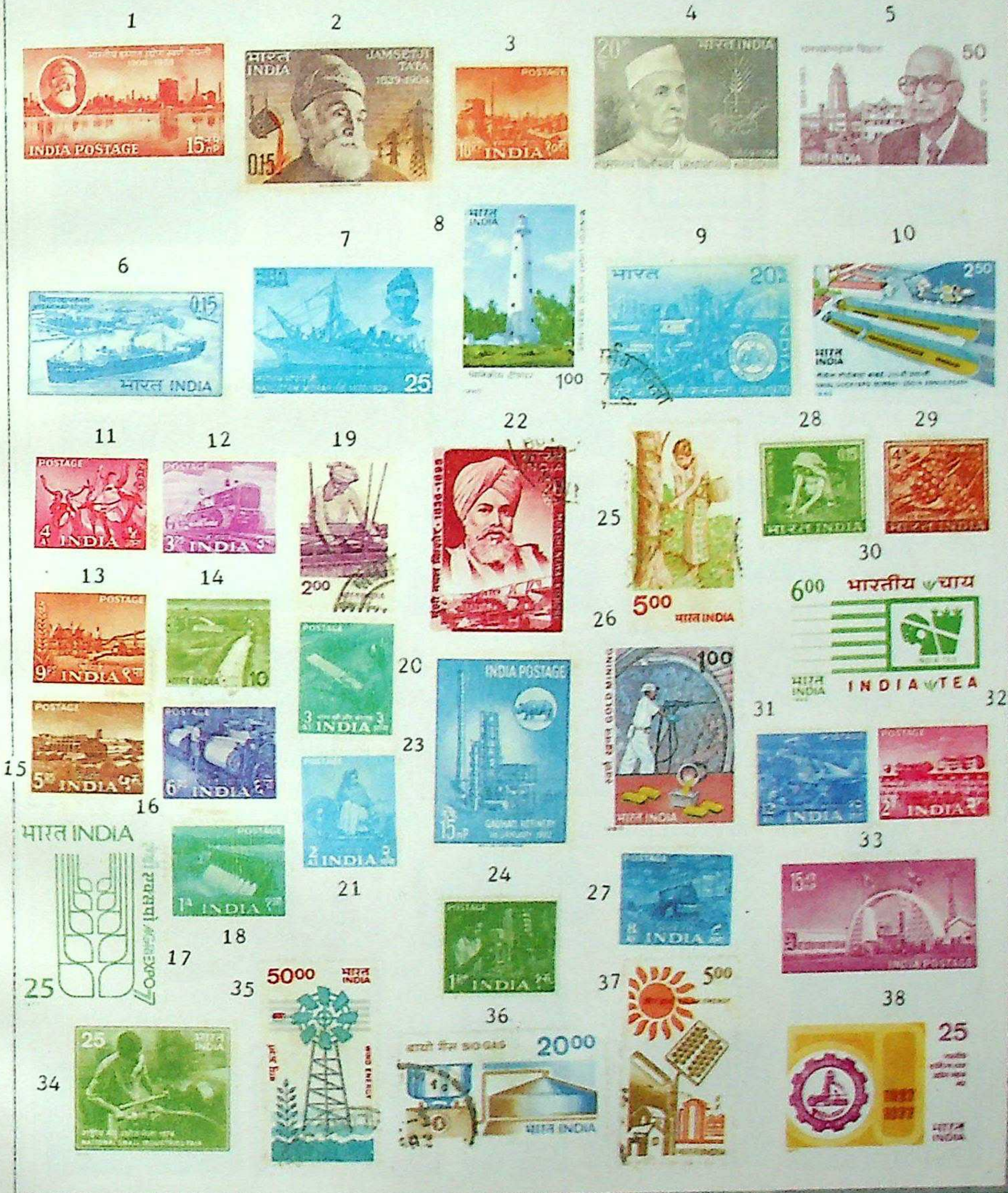
[69] HC No.245 of 1856, Minutes of Dalhousie, pp. 14, 15, 22.

[70] Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.2, [71] Ibid,pp.2-6. [72] Ibid,p.6.

[73] Bhatt, V.V. Aspects of Economic change and policy in p.19 cited in Tarachand, History of Freedom Movement in India, Vol. II, p.304.

PLATE 31

INDUSTRIES AND INDUSTRIALISTS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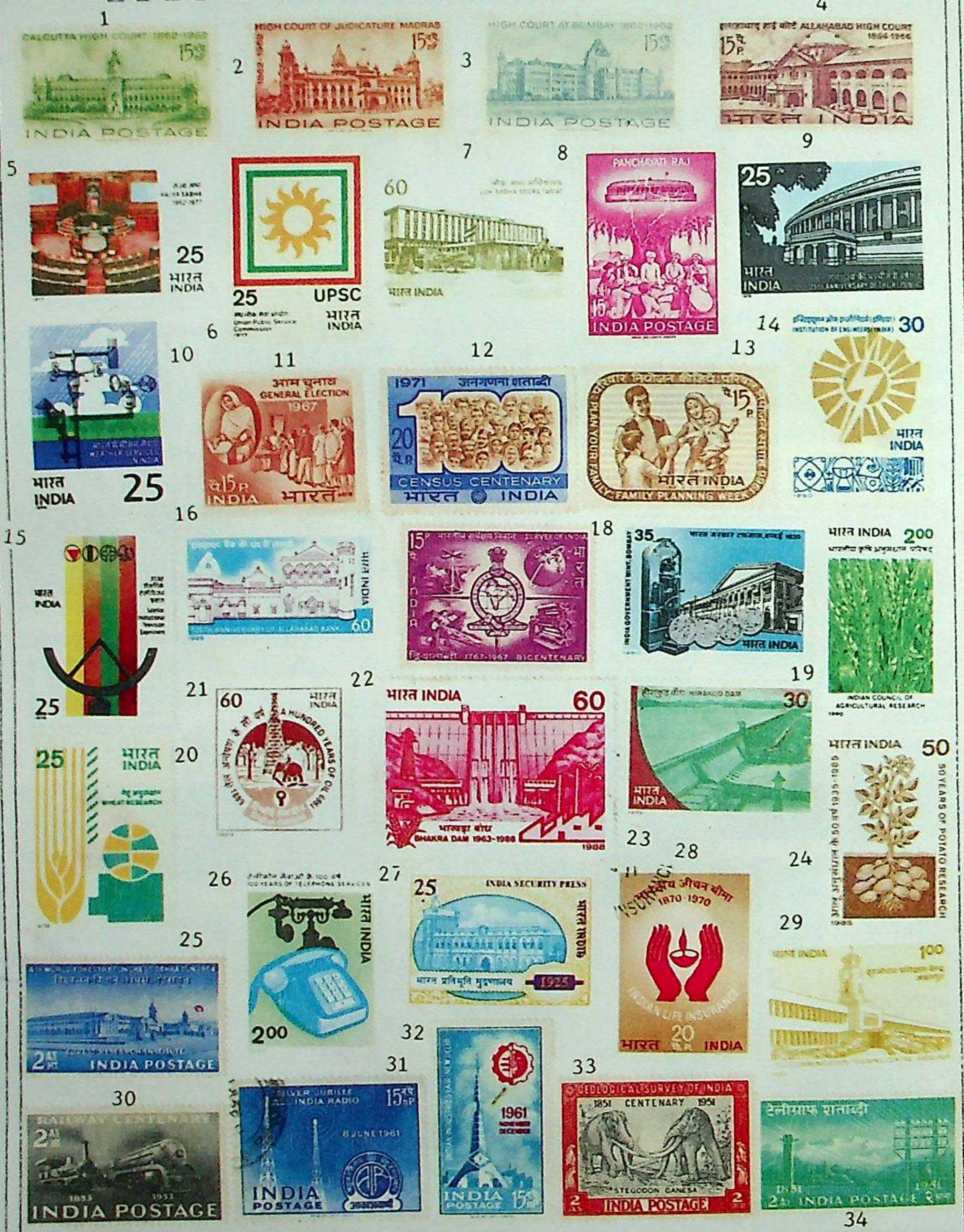
38
INDIA POSTAGE
JAMSETJI TATA 1839-1904
भारत INDIA
INDIA
भारतीय चाय
INDIA TEA
INDIA POSTAGE
बायो गैस BIO GAS
भारत INDIA

NATION BUILDING


1
CALCUTTA HIGH COURT 1862-1962
INDIA POSTAGE
2
HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE MADRAS
INDIA POSTAGE
3
HIGH COURT AT BOMBAY 1862-1962
INDIA POSTAGE
4
ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT 1866-1966
भारत INDIA
5
RAJYA SABHA 1952-1977
25
भारत INDIA
6
25 UPSC
भारत INDIA
7
60
LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
भारत INDIA
8
PANCHAYATI RAJ
INDIA POSTAGE
9
25
भारत INDIA
10
भारत INDIA 25
11
आम चुनाव GENERAL ELECTION 1967
15P
INDIA भारत
12
1971 जनगणना शताब्दी
100
20
CENSUS CENTENARY
भारत INDIA
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15P
भारत INDIA
FAMILY PLANNING WEEK
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INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (INDIA) 30
भारत INDIA
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भारत INDIA
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भारत INDIA
60
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15P
SURVEY OF INDIA
1767-1967 BICENTENARY
18
35
INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, BOMBAY
भारत INDIA
भारत INDIA 2.00
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
19
हीराकुड बाँध HIRAKUD DAM
30
भारत INDIA
20
25
भारत INDIA
WHEAT RESEARCH
21
60
भारत INDIA
A HUNDRED YEARS OF OIL
22
भारत INDIA 60
भाखड़ा बाँध
BHAKRA DAM 1963-1988
1988
23
28
24
भारत INDIA 50
50 YEARS OF POTATO RESEARCH
25
2 nP
INDIA POSTAGE
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100 YEARS OF TELEPHONE SERVICES
भारत INDIA
2.00
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INDIA SECURITY PRESS
भारत INDIA
1925
भारतीय जीवन बीमा
1870-1970
INDIAN LIFE INSURANCE
20
भारत INDIA
29
भारत INDIA 1.00
30
RAILWAY CENTENARY
2 nP
1853 1953
INDIA POSTAGE
31
SILVER JUBILEE ALL INDIA RADIO
15nP
8 JUNE 1961
INDIA POSTAGE
32
1961
INDIA 15nP
33
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
CENTENARY
1851 1951
STEGODON GANESA
2 INDIA POSTAGE 2
टेलीग्राफ शताब्दी
1851 1951
2 nP INDIA POSTAGE
34

The expansion of the railways though increased the volume of Indian trade it did not increase her prosperity. The export of raw materials like cotton and oil seeds and food stuffs from India resulted in increased exploitation of its resources and markets for the benefits of the British manufacturer and investor.

The Value Payable system of the Postal Department acted as a great boon to trade. The English petty articles of domestic use or personal ornament such as scissors, mirrors, bangles, the thousand and one glittering trifles, glass-ware, cloth, cutlery, watches and machines were sold in Indian markets.

The rural huckster's deck and stall had been poured in by the imports from abroad. Drugs and patent medicines of many kinds, Indian and foreign, commanded a ready sale. Sewing machines were found nearly every where and bicycles were in ever increasing demand by 1916 AD. The introduction of kerosene oil, matches, collapsible umbrellas and better and cheaper cutlery and soap had added appreciably to the comfort of the people.[75] It all led to the commendable increase in the postal traffic.

Supply of many of the above items to the rural areas was facilitated by the value payable system. The system enabled firms, both foreign and indigenous to establish main centres in cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and serve as retailers throughout the vast country, without having to open a large number of un-remunerable branch retail shops. The system gradually induced in public the habit of "Shopping by Post". The people living outside the great cities commanded the finest goods of all kinds from wholesaler or retail dealer. The postcards were largely employed in business circles for the circulation of advertisements.[77] Leading newspapers and other periodicals encouraged the public in use of the value payable system with confidence and profit, by offering them a kind of indirect guarantee. The parcel post was utilised for sending a domestic article presentation, or medicine etc. The insured post facilitated transmission of valuables by post and assisted in the trade of costly commercial goods. Thus the public were saved from undertaking periodical journeys to the big cities.

In India, the country of vast distances, the inconvenience and delay caused by the miscarriage of an important letter was necessarily greater. For this reason as well as of the difficulties of transit and delivery, the registered post a guaranteed system of delivery of articles was one of the most important features of the Indian post office. The said facility greatly assisted in development of trade and industry.

Industry

During the second half of the nineteenth century, a beginning was made for establishment of modern industry and mining in India.

Laying out of railway lines and prescribing freights favoured British trade-exports from India and imports into India.[78] The financial capital which was used to build the Railways came from Britain. The man power from managerial cadres to the skilled labour down to

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74. Ibid, p.35. The oil seeds exported from India included Castor, Corps, Cotton, groundnut, linseed, and mustard and Seasamum etc.

75. Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.6.

plate-layer and most of the equipment was also brought from Britain. Interested in the financial and industrial development of Britain, the colonial government did not evince interest in the development of heavy industries in India.[79]

Besides railway activity, jute and cotton textile industries, coal mining, manganese and mica industries also made some headway. A modern steel plant also came to be planted. The post bag system through which the mails could be exchanged between the plantations and the post office facilitated establishment of most of Indian tea and indigo industries.[80] Industrial development during the Second World War and post-war period was influenced largely by the prevailing inflationary conditions and scarcities.[81] The steel, cement, paper, basic chemical and light engineering products and electrical equipment manufacturing industries came up.[82]

The post-war re-construction programme initiated in 1944 AD was followed by the formation of outline of the broad strategy and policies for developing major sectors and to translate them into concrete programmes and projects.[83]

The post-war development plan of 1944 AD of the Postal Department suitably catered to the needs of the industrial development and the need of the Government.

The growth of postal services led to the opening up of the interiors of the country, in marketing agricultural out put, the discovery of the hidden resources of the country, the growth of modern industry and mining, new jobs, higher incomes for some segments of the population and numerous other economic changes. The expansion of the postal network catered to the growing needs of the trading classes, the landed aristocracy, the money lenders of the trading classes and considerably improved their position. The postal system thus materially contributed to the economic changes that witnessed the post World War II period. The business class was benefited due to rise in prices. The Indian capitalism began developing the European type of business organisation. Yet these changes did not alter the basic structure of economy till independence.

In the country like India, the post office is not only an agency for communication of written messages but also one of the principal agencies for transmission of small sums of money for which it is, in fact, practically the only means. During the year 1991-92 AD more than 2,587 crores were transferred through the post offices. The post office has also become a big banking establishment in the country mobilising the small savings of the average man and partially providing the funds for financing the projects of the Five year plans. As on 31st March 1992 AD, the Post office Savings bank was administering about 101 million accounts, the total deposits exceeded Rs. 20,007 crores. The amount held in deposit in all the small savings schemes was more than Rs. 55,763 crores as on the said date. Thus the postal savings have played pivotal role in the national resource mobilisations. It is one of the biggest savings institutions in the country and single largest contributor to the national savings. It is also the most important means of mobilising house hold savings especially in rural areas as it accounts for 53 percent of house hold savings. The post office has played an extremely important role in developing the economic infrastructure of the country.[84]

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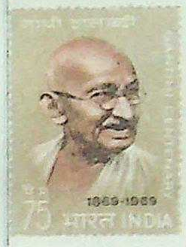
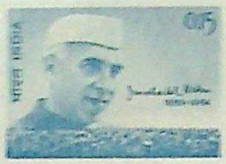
76. Ibid, p.6. 77. ARPO 1882-83, p.4. 78. Industrial Commission, 1916-18, p.140.
79. ibid, p.38. 80. ibid, p.35. 81. First Five Year Plan (1951-1956 AD), p.421.
82. First Five Year Plan (1951-1956 AD), pp.420-421. 83. ibid.

PLATE 33

NATIONAL LEADERS

1





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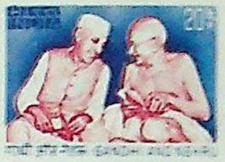

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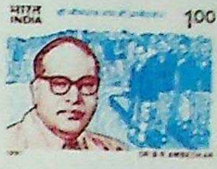

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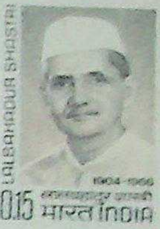

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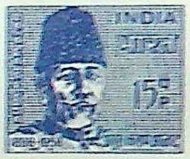

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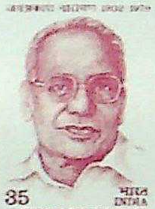

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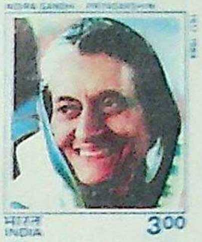

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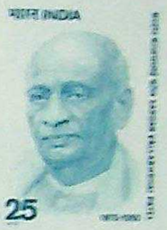

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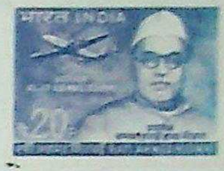

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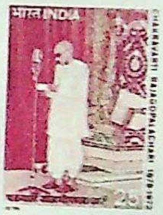

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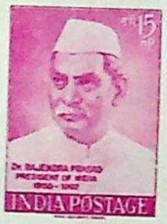

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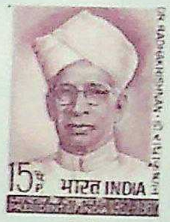

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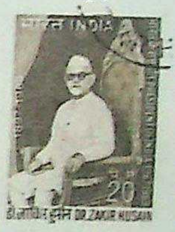

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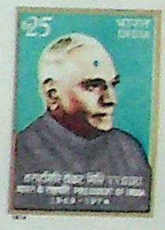

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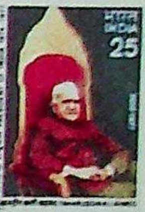

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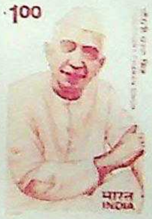

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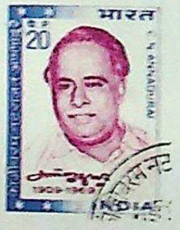

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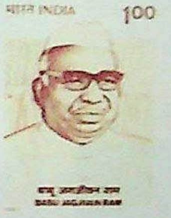

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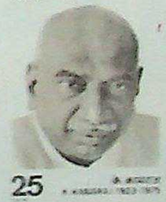

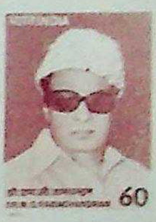

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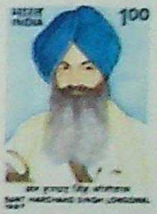

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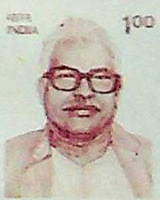

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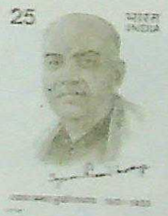

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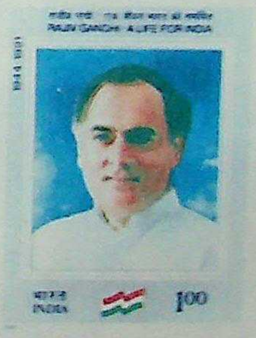

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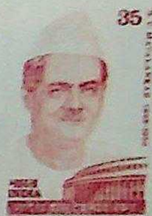

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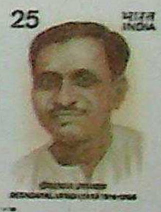

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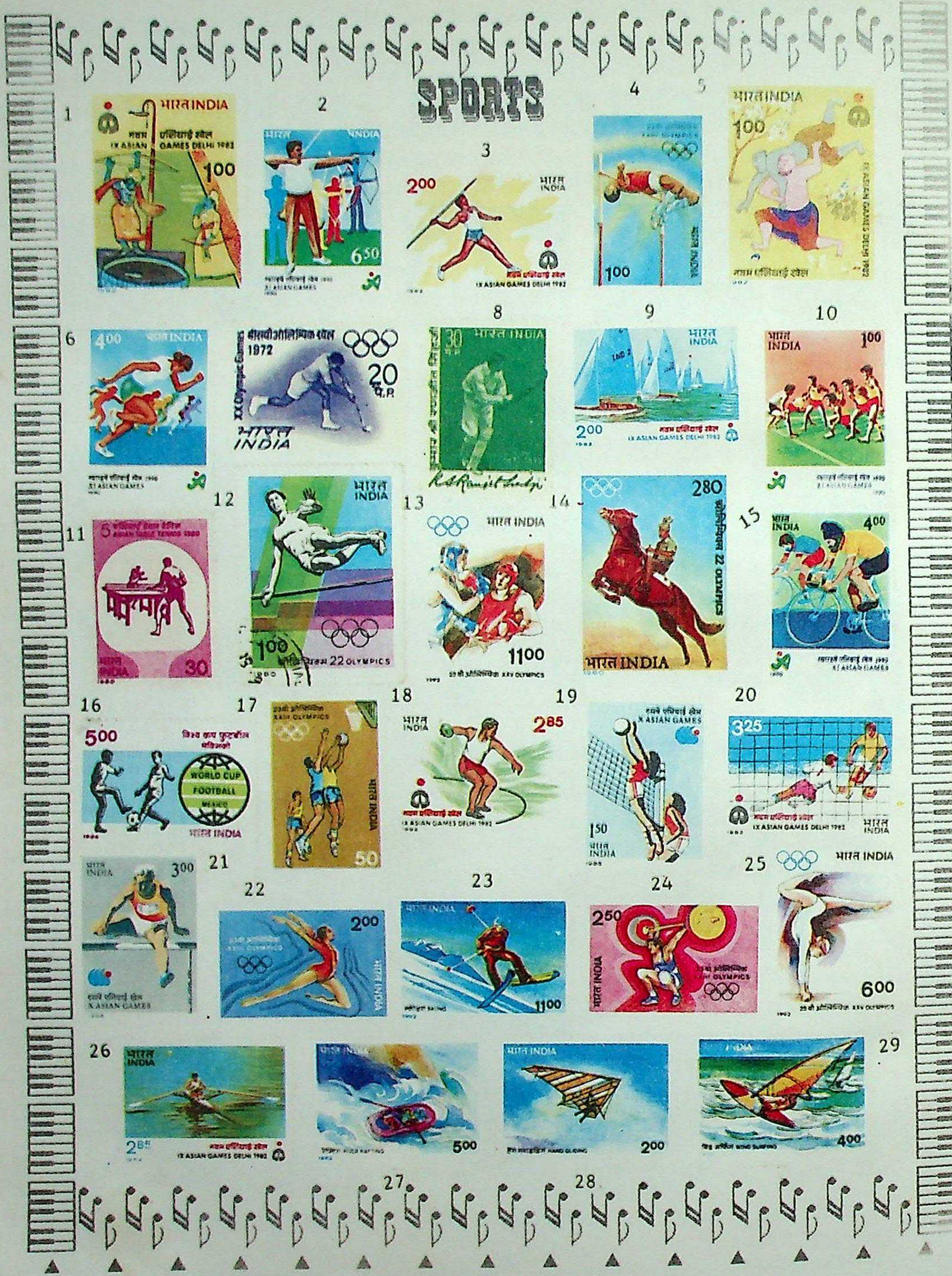
PLATE 34

SPORTS


1
भारत INDIA
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
1.00
2
6.50
XI ASIAN GAMES
3
2.00
भारत INDIA
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
4
1.00
5
भारत INDIA
1.00
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
6
4.00
भारत INDIA
XI ASIAN GAMES
7
1972
20
भारत INDIA
8
30
भारत INDIA
K.S. Ranjitsinhji
9
2.00
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
10
1.00
भारत INDIA
XI ASIAN GAMES
11
5 ASIAN TABLE TENNIS 1980
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भारत INDIA
1.00
22 OLYMPICS
13
भारत INDIA
11.00
XXV OLYMPICS
14
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22 OLYMPICS
भारत INDIA
15
4.00
XI ASIAN GAMES
16
5.00
WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MEXICO
भारत INDIA
17
XXIII OLYMPICS
50
18
19
2.85
भारत INDIA
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
X ASIAN GAMES
1.50
भारत INDIA
20
3.25
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
भारत INDIA
21
3.00
X ASIAN GAMES
22
2.00
XXV OLYMPICS
23
11.00
SKIING
24
2.50
XXIII OLYMPICS
25
भारत INDIA
6.00
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26
2.85
IX ASIAN GAMES DELHI 1982
27
RIVER RAFTING
5.00
28
HANG GLIDING
2.00
29
WIND SURFING
4.00

The postal service had its important role in the transformation of the Indian economic structure. The increased interaction of people engaged in trade, industry and agriculture was made possible with increase in the growth of postal service. Transformation of the economic structure of the country and the emergence of economic unity in India was as a natural result of the transformation of Indian postal system amalgamating into itself the different postal organisations of the country and as a result of being able to knit the different parts of the country into one single Indian postal territory. The India post during the period of fourteen decades of its development has ably assisted in unification of the economic system of the country and in development of social interaction.

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84. 8th Five year plan, Planning Commission, p.265.

------------------- *Chapter Thirteen* -----------------

CONCLUSION

The India Post known by various names in earlier times has, across the Ages, served as a potent instrument in the hands of those who had commanded its services.

In the ancient lore of Hinduism, Devarshi (Divine Sage) Narada features as an informant among the three crores of Gods. It is a mythological belief in India that Sage Narada was created by Lord Brahma (the creator) even before the creation of mankind. It is also believed that the Devas (Gods) emerged successful over the Asuras (Demons) in their battles. Perhaps this traditional and mythological belief and concept of this sage informant has indirectly influenced the development of better means of communicating in India across the Ages.

In Vedic Age (circa 2000 BC) for exchange of messages, the Aryans used the institution of informants and couriers. Though belonged to a pastoral community they are reported to have destroyed the fortifications of Indus Valley people around 4000 years ago. In the Ancient times, the institutions of 'Overseers' and 'Inspectors' employed by the Court for effective supervision over the informants and messengers ably assisted the mighty Mauryan and Gupta Empires in having control over their vast Indian possessions and also helped in improvement of internal and world trade.

During the medieval period, the 'Barid' system of Arabs adopted by Delhi Sultanate served them considerably in securing their security and authority in the conquered country. Historians have accredited the 'Barid' system for success of the despotic rule of Sultan Balban and the success of economic reforms of Sultan Alauddin Khalji through which the latter was capable of maintaining a huge Indian Army unheard in the earlier times and in utilising it against the repeated Mongolian incursions.

The Dak Chawkis were effectively arranged and utilised by Sher Shah Suri. The Dak system founded by him was extensively developed by the Mughals and it had helped them in exercising proper control over their vast Empire.

India Post, in the modern times, was initially planned and developed to cater the needs of imperial, commercial and political interests of the British in India and also to serve the interests of Indian people on a secondary basis to make the system viable.

The gates of British Indian Post Offices were thrown open to the members of the public in 1774 AD. Under the Post Office Act of 1837 AD, the Government of East India Company reserved for the first time the right to the carriage of letters for hire in any part of its territories exclusively with the Company itself and empowered the Governor General in Council to grant licence to carry letters by Dak on hire. The foundation of India Post on all India basis was laid with the promulgation of the Post Office Act of 1854 AD, by placing the British East India Company's postal organs of several presidencies and the District Post under one Director General of Post Offices. Enactment of the said Act was marked by two significant aspects, namely, the introduction of the postage stamp on all India basis and the beginning of the attempt to establish its total monopoly. Thus, all the local posts which were suitable to and meeting the requirements of the local people were eliminated. In other words, India Post undertook the total task of providing postal services in the territories under direct Imperial possession.

In 1854 AD, the Company's postal organisation was represented by two levels of management known as the Imperial Post controlling the main mail lines and larger offices and secondly the District postal establishments. The latter were merged finally with the Imperial Post in 1906 AD. The amalgamation of about 630 out of 652 postal organs of the native states by 1906 AD, extended the area of Imperial postal operations to 16.22 lakhs of sq.miles which facilitated the exchange of correspondence between different parts of the country irrespective of political divisions. With the merger of the postal organs of the residuary princely states in 1950 AD, the Indian Post emerged into a single postal system in India.

The postal development during the post independence period is more significant in respect of extension of mail lines. The total length of mail lines increased from 1,33,845 sq. miles in 1947-48 AD, to 14,71,889 sq. kilometres in 1984-85 AD. The distance of motor lines over which mails were conveyed showed a significant development having increased from 26,896 in 1947-48 AD, to 5,39,883 kilometres in 1983-84 AD. This period also witnessed the development and extension of airmail lines and the benefit of free transmission by air of articles of letter mail, money orders and surcharged insured air parcels. However, for the villages, the chief mode of conveyance of the post was only the foot lines. The planned progressively-developed postal lines penetrated every impregnable region, knit the network of every means of conveyance and made it possible and easier to communicate with people at far off distances. The transformation of the socio-economic structure of the country and the geographical, political, socio-economic unity in India was as a natural result of the transformation of India into one single postal territory.

In 1854 AD, the Post Office performed duties connected with the conveyance and delivery of letters, book packets, newspapers and parcels. With the additions of new classes of business, the postal organisation grew in terms of its functions and consequently a need arose to accommodate the new kind of postal business. This led to repeal of the existing Post Office Act to be replaced by another Act of 1898 AD.

The gradual process of introduction of numerous postal and non-postal functions through the agency of the post office gave an impetus for an increased traffic. This is evident from the fact that the number of postal articles received per annum which was one per two individuals in 1872-73 AD, rose to 2.40 per individual in 1904-05 AD. It further rose to 4 per individual in 1924-25 AD. The number of postal articles per individual fell to 3.31 in 1934-35 AD, as a result of economic depression. It again rose to 4.53 per individual in 1944-45 AD and to 5.90 and 7.3 per individual per annum in 1946-47 AD and 1953-54 AD respectively; and further to 16.30 in 1992-93 AD.

Supposing all the postal articles were received by the literate population only, there were 21.68 articles received per head of literate population in 1881-82 AD which rose to 42.62 by 1904-05 AD and with some variation in between, the number stood at 43.6 postal articles per literate individual during 1953-54 AD. While there was no much variation of postal articles received per literate population, the gradual increase in the number of postal articles per head of the total population goes to suggest that people belonging to all walks of life including illiterate persons were similarly involved in the increased activity of communication. However, the state of education in India had been an influencing factor in the growth in the number of post offices. Almost throughout the British period on an average literate population of one thousand had always commanded the services of a post office.

During the post-independence period, however, the post office has lagged behind in this respect and on an average each post office has served 1,718, 2,029 and 2,440 literate population as at the close of 1964-65 AD, 1984-85 AD, and 1992-93 AD respectively.

In 1854 AD, 700 post offices mostly catered to the needs of urban areas. The District Post under the local government basically formed rural postal network. During 1872-73 AD, one post office served 311 sq. miles of area and a population of 62,080. The extension of postal network consequently reduced the area and population under each post office. In 1904-05 AD, on an average 101 sq. miles and 17,627 persons were served by each post office. Similarly in 1934-1935 AD, the area and population served per post office was 75 sq. miles and 14,254 persons respectively. In 1947-48 AD, the area and population served per post office was 53 sq.miles and 15,038 persons respectively. However, during the 7 years after independence the average area and population ratio per post office was further reduced to 26 sq. miles and 7,165 persons respectively. As at the close of 1992-93 AD, the average area and population per post office remained at 21.60 sq. kilo metres and 5,546 persons respectively comparing favourably with the standards set up by the Universal Postal Union.

The introduction of postage stamps in 1854 AD replacing the system of receiving mail in post offices against cash payment led to setting up of the letter boxes at the places of public resort in the cities and towns. They were cleared by peons attached to the post offices. The number of letter boxes rose from 71 in 1856-57 AD to 6,392 in 1879-80 AD and to 36,037, 63,155 and 1,03,960 in 1904-05 AD, 1929-30 AD, and 1953-54 AD, respectively indicating the expansion of the postal facilities. The number of village postmen which was 127 during 1867-68 AD rose to 2,795 in 1879-80 AD and to 8,322, 9,176 and 21,562 in 1904-05 AD, 1929-30 AD and 1953-54 AD respectively. On an average the area and population served by each letter box were 283 sq. miles and 56,439 persons respectively in 1872-73 AD. The improvements brought about in the District post by additional employment of village postmen led to extension of these facilities. The area and population served per letter box was 31 sq. miles and 5,427 persons respectively in 1904-05 AD, 16 sq.miles and 4,529 persons respectively in 1947-48 AD and 11 sq.miles and 3,070 persons respectively in 1953-54 AD. The same stood at 6.61 sq. kilometres and 1,698 persons in 1991-92 AD. Thus letter box facility was improved gradually and the people living in distant rural areas were provided with better facilities for posting their letters.

With the introduction of Railway mail service and utilisation of Air Ways and the Satellite quicker transmission of postal communication could be made possible. The establishment of Returned Letter Offices assisted the post office in deciphering the articles with in-sufficient, illegible, or without proper addresses. The unclaimed and refused articles of all classes of correspondence were dealt with in these offices. Like all other institutions, the Postal Department also reflected the changing economic conditions of the country. Conditions of work and rules of procedure consequently underwent a gradual change and modification in view of socio-political conditions, from time to time. The important factors that aided postal development in India were improvements of the organisational set-up, extension of the postal facilities in the remote areas, improved administrative, technical and operative functions of the service.

Conclusion

Letter writing is as old as the art of writing itself. Ever since man learnt the art of writing , he has had an urge to communicate. As man migrated to new settlements in search of better prospects and new destiny, he looked for improved and faster means of communications. The development of the postal network led to greater social mobility resulting in integration of society. The India Post served vital social need. helped forge filial bonds and brought people thousands of miles apart come closer to each other or partake in a common cause. The numerous postal and non-postal functions provided the un-restricted means of diffusion of knowledge, extending commerce, and promoting in every way the social and intellectual improvement of the people and thus fulfilled an eminently moral civilizating mission. The India Post has followed the course of its particular civilisation and that consequently the degree of intellectual, commercial and industrial power of the nation might be measured by the degree of perfection and activity of its postal institution.

The India Post has in its own way contributed to the growth of national consciousness, in fostering the unity and integration of the nation and in promotion of its all round progress. The development over a period of time evolved an effective administrative machinery to serve and fulfil the aspirations of the people. The government never aimed to make the India Post a major revenue earning agency and perhaps it was due to this reason that one could never see the consequent impact of the rise in price index on the increase of the postal charges. This policy of the Department facilitated even the poorer classes to frequent for the postal services.

The increase in traffic has led to an extensive expansion of postal network in India. Perhaps the India Post is the only Department which has the widest possible contact with cross sections of society. In times of crisis, floods, drought, famines, war etc., the post office helped people to keep in close touch with one another, bringing about a sense of unity, purpose and oneness.

Few public utilities so vitally touch the daily life of every person as the post office which helps people to keep in close touch with one another, bringing about a sense of unity, purpose and oneness. A vast net work of post offices which operates in the country linked the remote villages and far-flung towns and cities. Almost every one depends on it and looks to it for sustaining his links with the kith and kin, It has become one of the most important life-lines of the nation. The post office serves millions of people and handled innumerable messages. It has been rightly considered as the eye and ear of the Society.

The India Post had legitimately conquered so important a place in Indian social organisation that the possibility of the existence of its civilised state can not be conceived without the co-operation of this valuable agent, which by the action of its ingenious machinery and the combined working of its manifold springs has transformed life and motion of the whole social body and has tightened the bonds of affection and interest that tied the Indian nation and individuals. The postal system in India occupied the position of the nerve system which serves to transmit the words and thoughts of the nation. The significance of the postal system could be understood best by visualising its absence.

It is thus seen that India Post known by various names across the Ages has ably assisted the rulers, elite and mercantile community in its various forms in Ancient and Medieval times. In the modern period, it has conveniently served as a forceful instrument in the hands of British for development of their trade and exercising control over their vast Indian possessions and catered to their needs during their invasions in Indian neighboured and World Wars. When its services were allowed to the general public, in modern times, India

Post has helped in forging unity among the Indian masses crossing political, regional, linguistic and religious boundaries, in raising national and political consciousness, in liberating them from the yoke of alien rule, in their march towards over all development and finally in making them the masters of their own destiny Therefore, it can rightly be said that the India Post has served as a potent means of communicating through the Ages.

-------------------- *Appendix I* --------------------

GRAPHS AND CHARTS

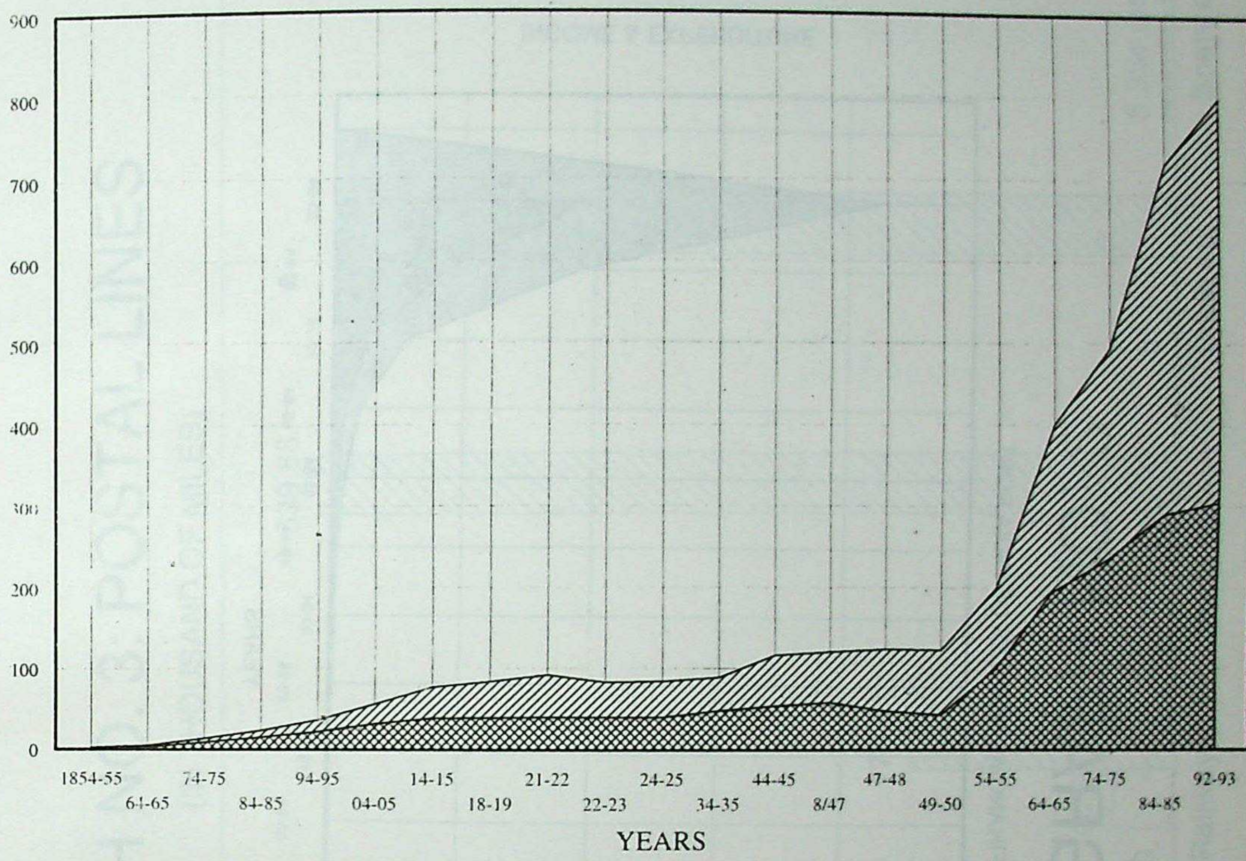
LIST OF GRAPHS AND CHARTS

Graph/Chart No Title

1. Graph showing the ratio of growth of post offices and the postal traffic.
2. Graph showing Decade-wise Financial results of Department of Post India.
3. Portion of all classes of postal lines.
4. India post - Receipts, 1953-54 A.D. and 1992-93 A.D.
5. India Post - Expenditure, 1953-54 A.D. and 1992-93 A.D.
6. Scheme of Control of Director General's Office, 1924-25 A.D.
7. Organisational chart of Postal Services Board, 1986-87 A.D.
8. Promotional avenues of clerical staff in Post Office and Railway Mail Service.

GRAPH NO 1

RATIO OF GROWTH OF POST OFFICES AND THE POSTAL TRAFFIC

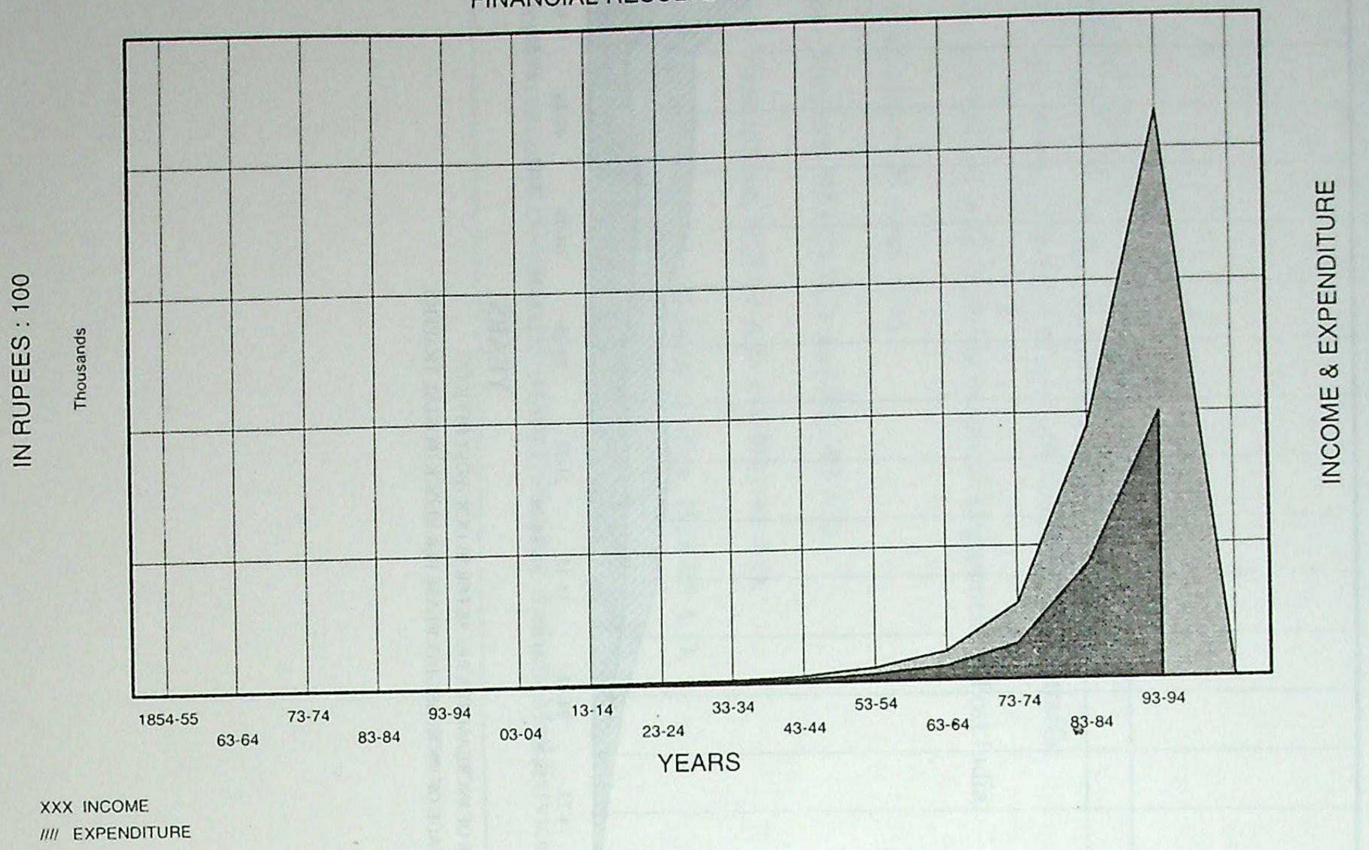


//// PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE/DECREASE PER BLOCK (POST OFFICES)

XXXX PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE/DECREASE PER BLOCK (POSTAL TRAFFIC)

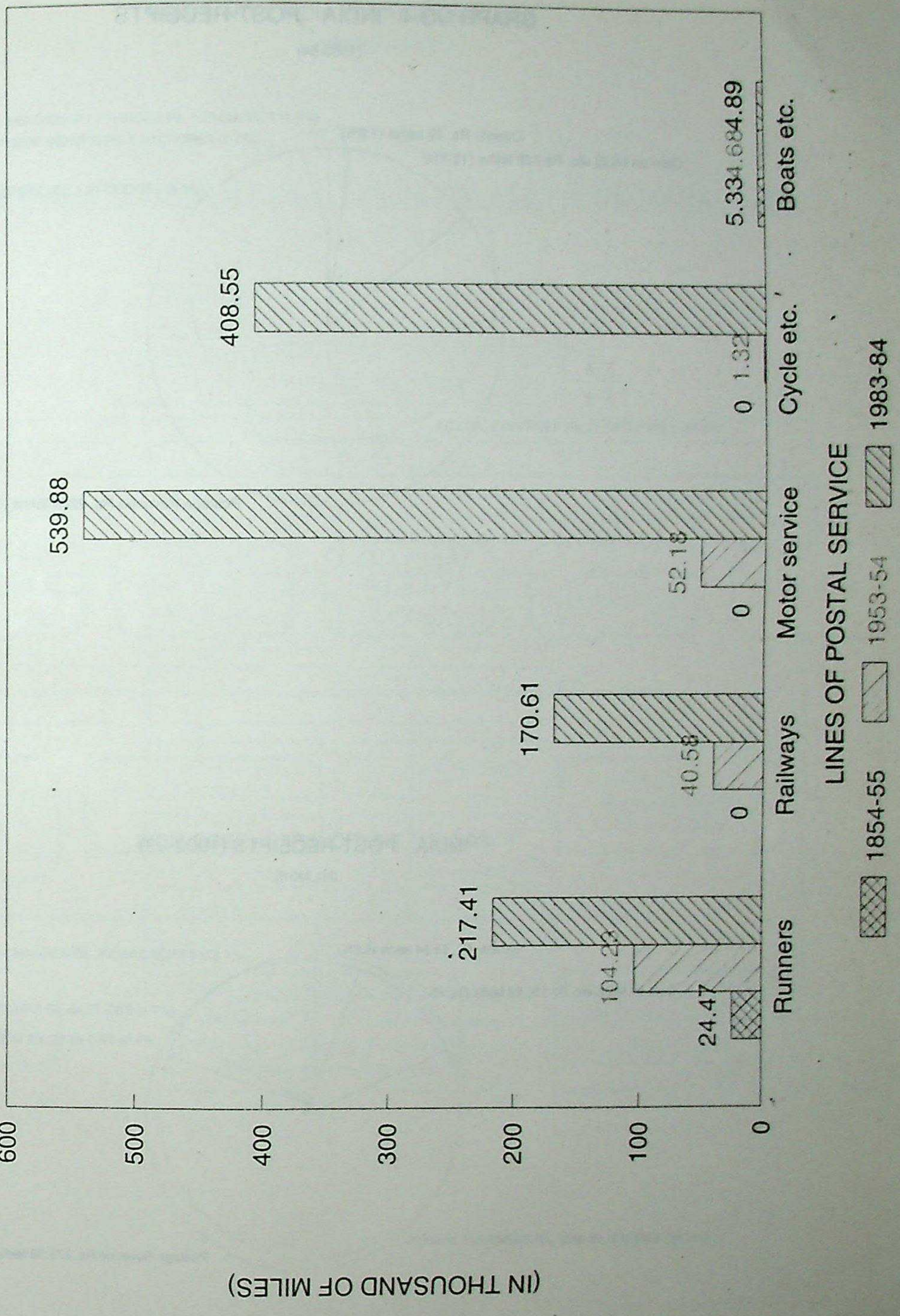
GRAPH NO. 2

FINANCIAL RESULTS OF INDIA POST



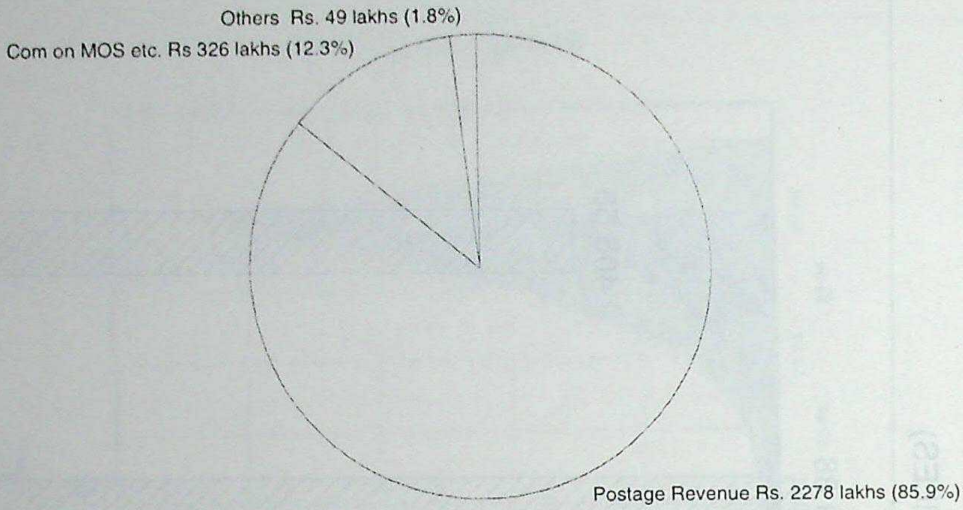
GRAPH NO. 3: POSTAL LINES

(IN THOUSAND OF MILES)



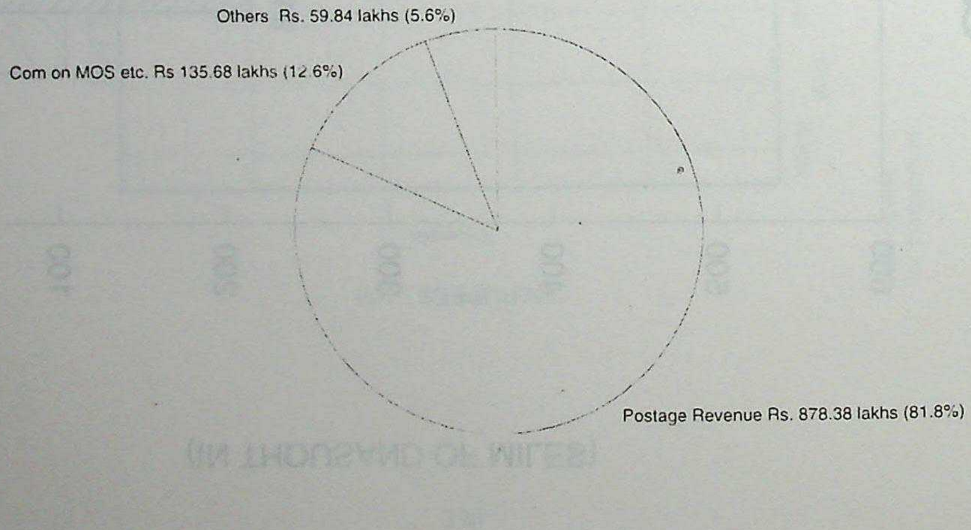
GRAPH NO.4 : INDIA POST-RECEIPTS

(1953-54)



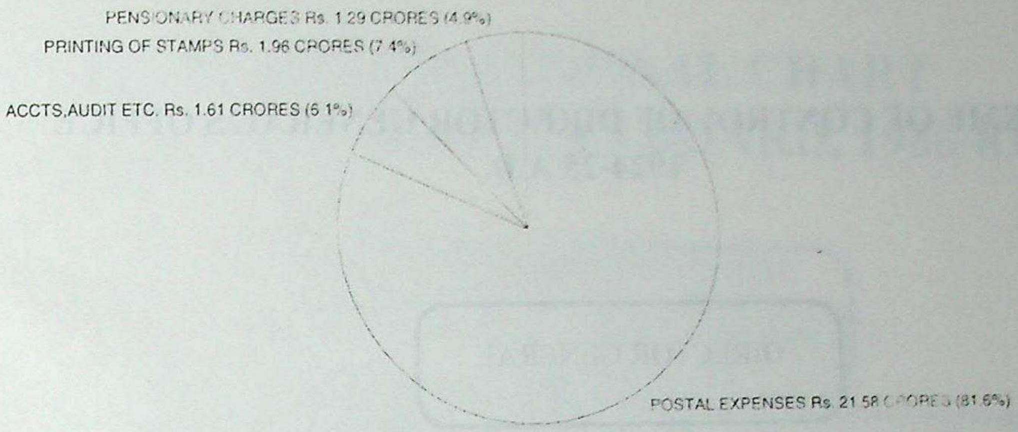
INDIA POST-RECEIPTS (1992-93)

IN LAKHS



GRAPH NO 5: INDIA POST EXPENDITURE

(1953-54)



INDIA POST - EXPENDITURE (1992-93)

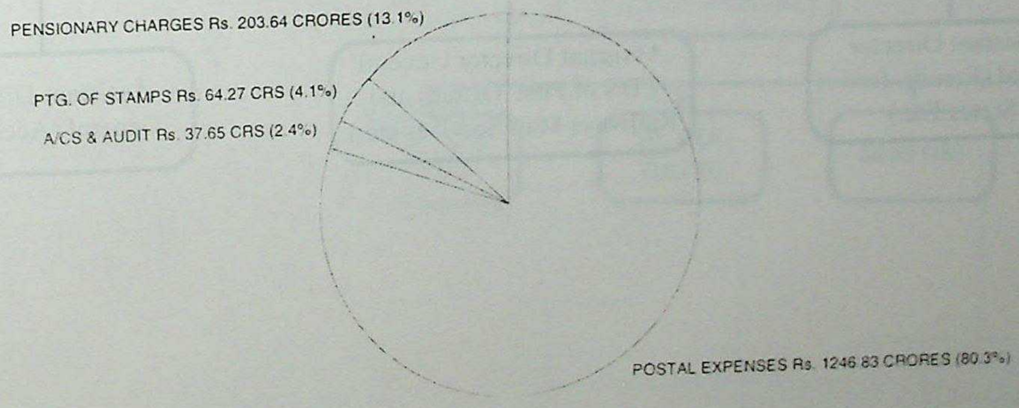


Chart No. 6.

SCHEME OF CONTROL OF DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE 1924-25 A.D.

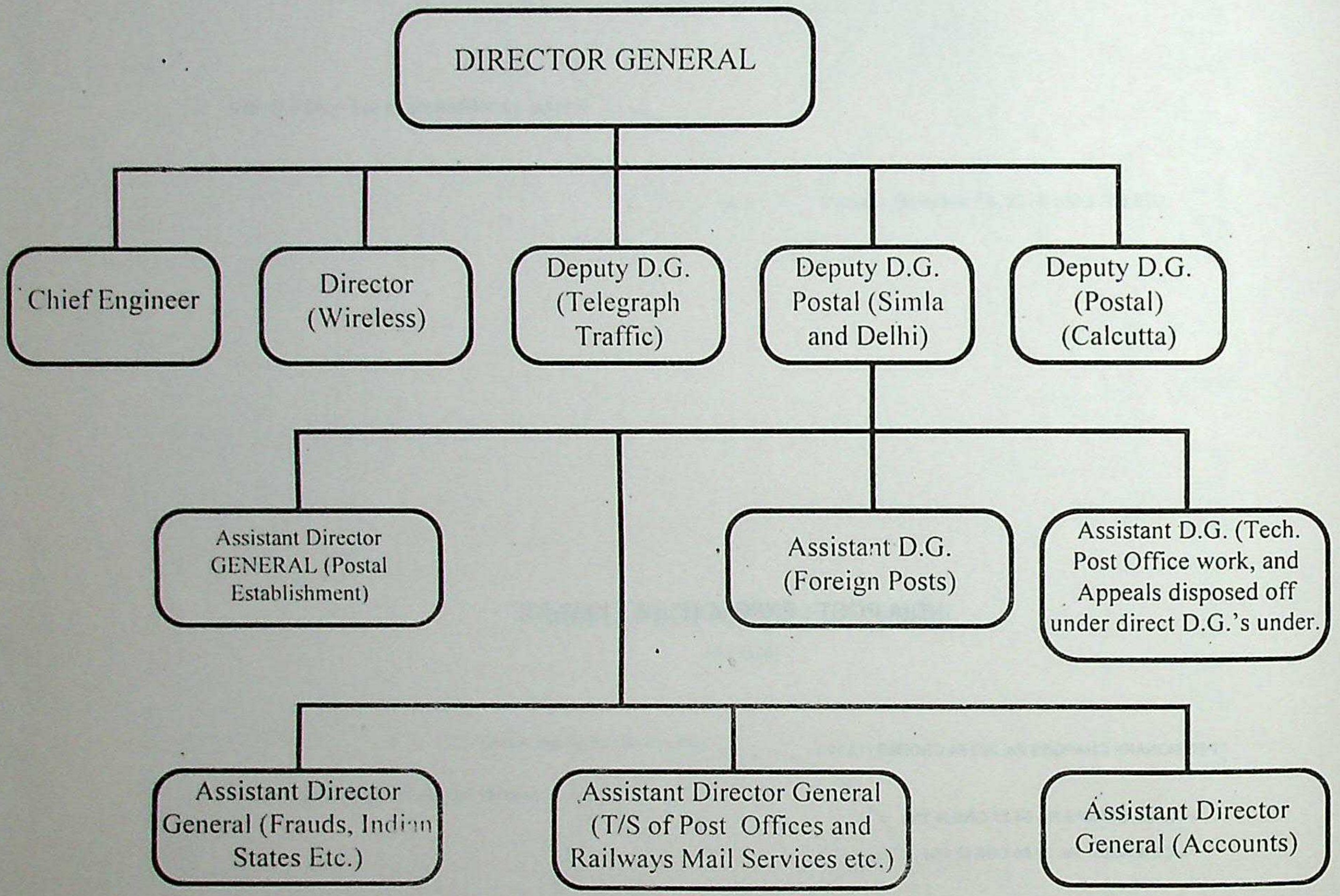

DIRECTOR GENERAL
Chief Engineer
Director (Wireless)
Deputy D.G. (Telegraph Traffic)
Deputy D.G. Postal (Simla and Delhi)
Deputy D.G. (Postal) (Calcutta)
Assistant Director GENERAL (Postal Establishment)
Assistant D.G. (Foreign Posts)
Assistant D.G. (Tech. Post Office work, and Appeals disposed off under direct D.G.'s under.
Assistant Director General (Frauds, Indian States Etc.)
Assistant Director General (T/S of Post Offices and Railways Mail Services etc.)
Assistant Director General (Accounts)

Chart No.7

ORGANISATIONAL CHART OF POSTAL SERVICES BOARD, 1986-87 AD

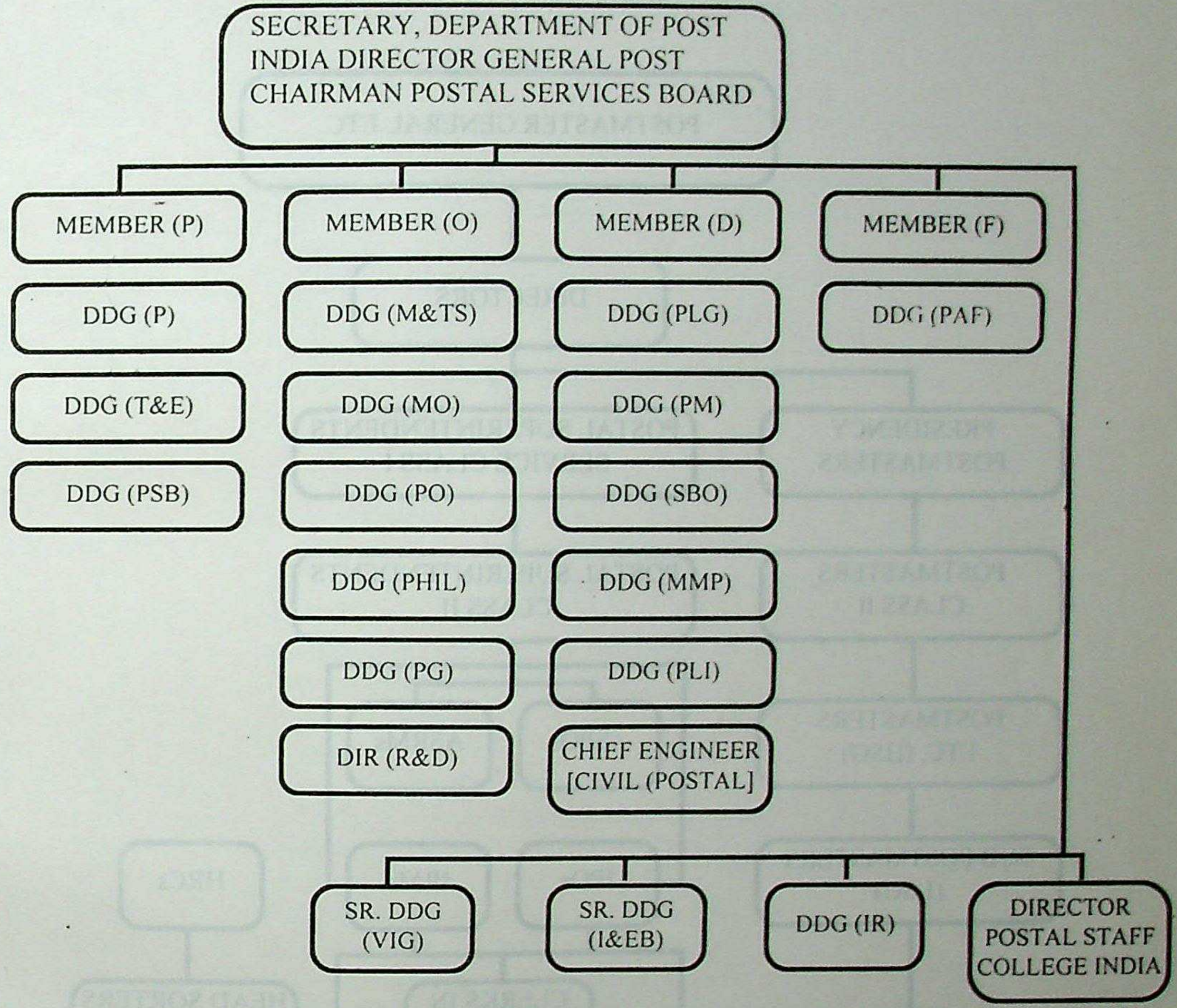
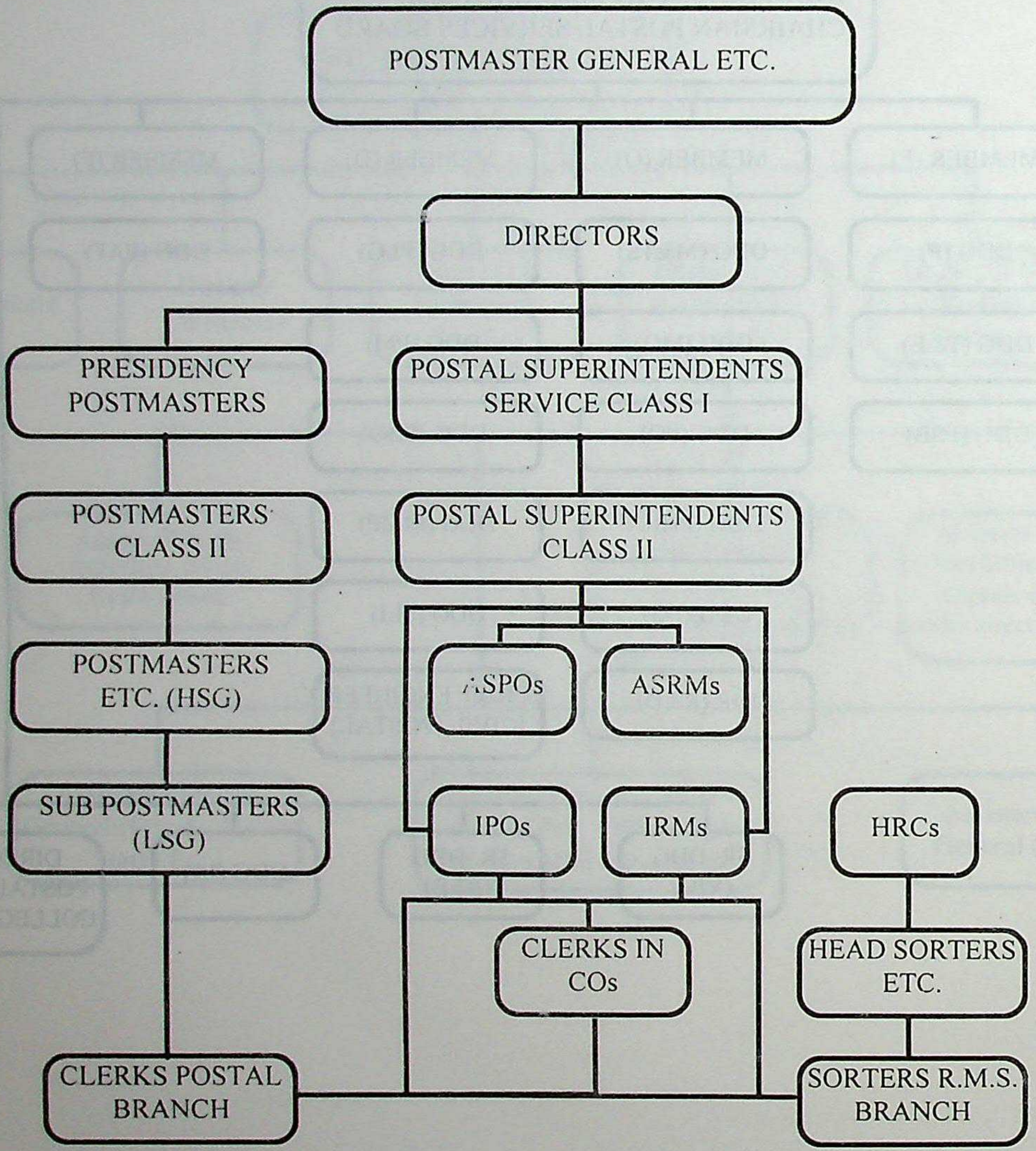

SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF POST
INDIA DIRECTOR GENERAL POST
CHAIRMAN POSTAL SERVICES BOARD
MEMBER (P)
MEMBER (O)
MEMBER (D)
MEMBER (F)
DDG (P)
DDG (M&TS)
DDG (PLG)
DDG (PAF)
DDG (T&E)
DDG (MO)
DDG (PM)
DDG (PSB)
DDG (PO)
DDG (SBO)
DDG (PHIL)
DDG (MMP)
DDG (PG)
DDG (PLI)
DIR (R&D)
CHIEF ENGINEER [CIVIL (POSTAL]
SR. DDG (VIG)
SR. DDG (I&EB)
DDG (IR)
DIRECTOR POSTAL STAFF COLLEGE INDIA

Chart No. 8.

PROMOTIONAL AVENUES OF CLERICAL STAFF IN POST OFFICE AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE


POSTMASTER GENERAL ETC.
DIRECTORS
PRESIDENCY POSTMASTERS
POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS SERVICE CLASS I
POSTMASTERS CLASS II
POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS CLASS II
POSTMASTERS ETC. (HSG)
ASPOs
ASRMs
SUB POSTMASTERS (LSG)
IPOs
IRMs
HRCs
CLERKS IN COs
HEAD SORTERS ETC.
CLERKS POSTAL BRANCH
SORTERS R.M.S. BRANCH

TABLES

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34.	XII.2	Ratio of growth rate of post offices to the increase in percentage of literate population.

Table I.1

Postal rates from Calcutta to some selected stations current in 1795 AD

	Letters weighting							
Calcutta to	2 1/2 tolas		2 1/2 to 3 1/2		3 1/2 to 4 1/2		4 1/2 to 5 1/2	
	Rs.	as	Rs.	as.	Rs.	as.	Rs.	As
Benares	0	7	0	14	1	5	1	12
Patna	0	5	0	10	0	15	1	4
Barrackpore	0	1	0	2	0	3	0	4
Rajmahal	0	3	0	6	0	9	0	12
Mongheer	0	4	0	8	0	12	1	0
Chittagong	0	6	0	12	1	2	1	8
Madras	1	2½	2	5	3	7½	4	10
Hyderabad	0	12	1	8	2	4	3	0
Poonah	1	4	2	8	3	12	5	0
Bombay	1	9	3	2	4	11	6	4
Dacca	0	3	0	6	0	9	0	12
Diamond Point	0	2	0	0	4	6	0	8
Coxe's Island	0	4	0	8	0	12	1	0

Table I.2

Postal Rates 1847-48 A.D.

From Calcutta to	Distance in mile	Charge upto 1 Tola.	
		Rs.	As.
Agra	796		10
Aurangabad	963		12
Indore	970		12
Allahabad	498		6
Cuttack	248		4
Gauhati	496		6
Ghandernagore	22		1
Jubbalpore	700		11
Dehradoon	967		12
Dacca	187		2
Tamluk	50		1
Delhi	900		10
Dum Dum	8		1
Barrackpore	16		1
Benares	44		6
Bombay	1185		14
Burdwan	75		1
Madras	1063		12
Serampore	18		1
Hyderabad	992		12

Table II.1

Number of Post Offices etc. under District Posts

Year	No. of Post	No. of offices and Receiving Houses	No. of Village Letter Boxes	Length of Postmen	Postal lines (in miles)
1879-80	A.D.	770	1683	2496	31,407
1881-82	A.D.	778	1852	2572	32,448
1884-85	A.D.	908	1915	2590	34,683
1894-95	A.D.	1471	3100	3235	35,800
1904-05	A.D.	1618	4121	2059	35,802
1905-06	A.D.	927	2059	964	27,108

Table III.1

Number of permanent post offices in different circles

Year	Bengal	Bombay	Madras	North Western Provinces	Punjab	British Burma	Sind	Oudh	Raj-Putana	Central Provin-ces	Total
1854-55	170	119	150	261							700
55-56	252	127	154	281							814
56-57	242	127	139	271							779
57-58	266	130	141	273							810
58-59	275	133	142	285							835
59-60	284	139	143	286							852
60-61	304	153	144	288							889
61-62	291	199	145	181	110	16					942
62-63	304	241	151	188	111	16					1011
63-64	318	291	160	193	113	16					1091
64-65	356	319	168	211	121	16					1191
65-66	412	365	209	349	187	16					1538
66-67											1738*
67-68											2205*
68-69											2589
69-70	659	528	345	492	375	19	58			153	2629
70-71	726	477	349	479	425	22	60	41		160	2736
71-72	770	458	360	497	448	22	68	82		179	2884
72-73	777	445	372	451	526	22	73	82	65	193	3006
1873-74	827	472	422	469	538	22	73	84	66	205	3178

* = Circle-wise details are not available.

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Bangal	Bombay	Madras	North Western Provinces	Punjab	British Burma	Sind	Oudh	Raj-putana	Assam	Bihar	East Bengal	Central India	Central provi-nces	Total
1874-75	858	496	509	499	528	22	76	85	84	66	-	-	212	-	3408
75-76	970	488	601	505	512	23	77	96	85	84	-	-	220	-	3661
76-77	1018	541	645	518	514	23	78	115	85	96	-	-	219	-	3852
77-78	1105	638	668	531	519	28	79	118	84	92	-	-	245	-	4107
78-79	870	730	700	609	539	28	73	130	81	123	260	-	249	-	4392
79-80	749	708	730	609	604	28	--	130	78	125	266	132	250	-	4409
80-81	783	735	717	580	515	28	85	160	76	130	267	133	61	252	4522
81-82	852	728	794	598	565	28	77	170	79	141	278	160	66	277	4813
82-83	907	938	789	616	598	33	100	196	85	149	309	223	79	288	5310
83-84	1000	1027	907	661	645	52	109	200	89	164	372	266	88	299	5879
84-85	1061	1179	948	744	716	63	116	243	109	185	402	296	115	311	6488
85-86	1089	1203	1066	752	719	71	125	278	143	193	433	308	132	340	6849
86-87	1130	1272	1093	755	719	97	128	288	162	202	442	327	327	351	7097
87-88	1154	1227	1132	792	716	123	141	294	181	209	445	338	135	376	7263
88-89	1171	1250	1282	805	717	140	146	297	192	216	444	342	139	392	7533
89-90	1176	1277	1691	845	720	149	154	314	212	219	467	337	143	999	8103
90-91	1185	1344	1764	881	751	156	161	327	214	219	474	347	142	429	8394
91-92	1201	1376	1814	890	831	171	168	324	215	221	475	356	137	438	8617
92-93	1222	1389	1835	897	831	171	171	324	219	222	472	362	127	462	8832
1893-94	1230	1397	1832	1246	1000	181	177	-	222	225	471	372	126	499	8978

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Bengal	Madras	Bombay	North Western Provinces	Punjab	British Burma	Central Provinces.	Rajputana	Assam	Bihar	East Bengal	Sind	Total
1894-95	1275	1867	1415	1284	1097	184	559	285	230	481	338	178	9243
95-96	1348	1937	1416	1337	1173	189	582	294	240	483	405	184	9588
96-97	1408	2010	1420	1367	1300	186	597	310	253	485	415	197	9948
97-98	1503	2057	1426	1404	1374	187	618	322	266	487	423	196	10263
98-99	1563	2097	1433	1422	1444	186	626	331	268	495	433	207	10505
99-1900	1627	341	276	502	445	208	-	-	-	-	-	-	10823
1900-01	1833	2527	1598	1732	2096	299	831	390	344	606	492	222	12970
01-02	1865	2830	1680	1791	2373	315	863	421	339	618	514	236	13845
02-03	1921	3051	1830	1826	2678	327	899	451	343	638	525	247	14736
03-04	1977	3151	1962	1858	2943	339	926	461	344	654	529	258	15403
04-05	2048	3362	2204	1891	2975	350	985	466	346	688	547	271	16033
05-06	2263	3352	2415	1959	3004	386	998	481	588	1043	-	286	16775
06-07	2344	3425	2481	1978	3031	400	1034	493	-	1701	-	293	17180
07-08	2435	3480	2798	2075	3183	404	1045	565	-	1792	-	-	17777
08-09	2522	3572	2883	2176	3254	427	1108	566	-	1891	-	-	18399
09-10	2590	3595	2917	2179	3259	426	1722	-	-	1954	-	-	18642
10-11	2626	3584	2935	2228	3264	425	1757	-	-	1994	-	-	18813
11-12	2649	3558	2962	2230	3218	413	1729	-	-	2042	-	-	18801
12-13	2676	3503	2971	2234	3202	433	1729	-	-	2041	-	-	18789
13-14	2693	3512	2991	2277	3200	438	1764	-	-	2071	-	-	18946

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Bengal	Bombay	Madras	United Provinces	Punjab & N.W.F.P.	Bihar	British Burma	Central Provinces	Sind & Baluchistan	Total
1914-15	3556	3008	3531	2318	3238	1263	435	1809	-	19158
15-16	3608	3028	3553	2345	3251	1271	432	1840	-	19328
16-17	3637	3031	3555	2351	3267	1280	434	1854	-	19409
17-18	3659	3023	3551	2349	3260	1282	434	1852	-	19410
18-19	3675	3027	3559	2355	3253	1281	440	1855	-	19445
19-20	3673	3029	3563	2349	3283	1291	440	1811	-	19439
20-21	3681	3022	3584	2352	3297	1305	449	1806	-	19496
21-22	3696	3046	3591	2360	3286	1306	463	1809	-	19557
22-23	3701	2766	3614	2362	3242	1310	457	1789	369	19610
23-24	3697	2790	3623	2399	3152	1314	464	1764	365	19491
24-25	3732	2797	3662	2339	3177	1321	470	1782	372	19652
25-26	3817	2842	3720	2395	3255	1357	488	2852	382	20018
26-27	3948	2905	3803	2446	3460	1395	490	1899	391	20737
27-28	4076	2987	3953	2507	3708	1477	523	1974	403	21608
28-29	4287	3033	4232	2646	3948	1597	568	2075	434	22820
29-30	4509	3096	4420	2734	4236	1702	609	2127	455	23888
30-31	4526	3115	4527	2742	4303	1727	631	2145	459	24175
31-32	4506	3124	4508	2691	4257	1710	611	2124	452	23983
32-33	4492	3129	4499	2631	4215	1708	583	2101	439	23797
1933-34	4487	3120	4509	2614	4158	1707	571	2072	438	23676

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Bengal	Bombay	Bihar & Orissa	Burma	Central	Madras	Punjab and N.W.F.P.	Sind and Baluchistan	United Provinces	Assam	Orissa	East Punjab	Delhi	Hyderabad (Deccan)	Andhra	Rajasthan	Total
1934-35	4474	3116	1713	572	2043	4528	4130	442	2611	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23629
35-36	4471	3125	1716	572	2086	4530	4141	442	2610	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23695
36-37	4515	3138	1855	577	2172	4474	4190	464	2654	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24084
37-38	4591	3407	1900	-	2210	4584	4296	490	2689	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24167
38-39	4618	3431	1904	-	2187	4599	4295	490	2719	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24303
39-40	4712	3430	1985	-	2195	4790	4385	483	2760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24741
40-41	4772	3634	2035	-	2194	4951	4469	486	2797	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25338
43-44	4800	3735	2066	-	2210	5159	4563	486	2822	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25841
44-45	4796	3768	2051	-	2185	5164	4579	489	2838	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25860
45-46	4194	3770	2059	-	2174	5178	4616	482	2824	619	-	-	-	-	-	-	25916
46-47	4198	3794	2069	-	2171	5236	4733	476	2835	618	-	-	-	-	-	-	26130
14-8-47	4144	3818	1573	-	2167	5260	4825	476	2851	619	536	-	-	-	-	-	26269
47-48	1505	3834	1580	-	2191	5285	--	-	2860	436	540	1978	31	-	-	-	20240
48-49	1507	3826	1610	-	2206	5272	--	-	2876	434	600	2142	52	-	-	-	20525
49-50	1518	3817	1745	-	2289	6129	--	-	2889	447	609	2566	91	1232	-	-	23312
50-51	1701	4136	1988	-	2805	7161	-	-	3178	503	677	2636	71	1250	-	-	26106
51-52	1843	4388	2162	-	2965	8771	-	-	3901	559	846	2861	91	1246	-	-	29633
52-53	1971	4526	2296	-	3081	9203	--	-	4430	651	1123	2979	110	1269	-	-	31649
1953-54	2159	4753	2393	-	1689	7063	--	-	4987	665	1151	3034	115	1435	2975	1535	33954

Figures for 1941-42 and 1942-43 are not available

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Andhra	Hydera-bad	Assam	Bihar	Delhi	Central	Bombay	Orissa	Punjab	Rajas-than	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Mysore	Madras	Gujrat	Kerala	Total
1954-55	3003	1522	667	2738	130	1716	4791	1262	3175	1569	5415	2354	--	7363	--	--	35705
55-56	3292	1700	726	3196	127	1789	4929	1361	3429	1601	5697	2517	--	7778	--	--	38142
56-57	3412	2210	860	3200	126	1897	5018	1436	3569	1652	6323	2628	--	7988	--	--	40259
57-58	3815	2622	867	3202	138	2027	5283	1531	3634	1689	6822	2694	--	8412	--	--	42736
58-59	4097	3039	968	3253	138	2160	5340	1615	3713	1741	7407	2810	--	9296	--	--	45577
59-60	4370	3367	1213	3397	138	2367	5461	1741	3036	1839	7763	3132	--	9470	--	--	48094
60-61	7038	--	1299	3548	156	2493	5692	1867	4049	2091	7953	3494	2941	7417	--	--	50038
61-62	7597	--	1334	3831	165	3232	3546	1896	4322	1586	8272	3335	2886	5762	2570	2187	52521
62-63	8200	J&K	1426	4331	177	3357	3852	1982	4587	1807	85202	3618	3013	6020	2627	2440	55795
63-64	8647	-	1580	4794	192	3503	3792	2019	4815	2244	8775	3768	3221	6488	2929	2526	59293
64-65	9193	-	1643	5148	206	3699	3859	2068	5023	2575	9270	4094	3508	6679	3234	2526	62725
65-66	9694	-	1716	5506	224	2518	3892	2241	5141	2334	9425	4247	3807	7101	3453	2732	64031
66-67	9955	769	1842	5653	261	2588	5314	2419	4748	2749	9859	4343	4061	7560	3815	2938	68874
67-68	10608	769	1955	5966	292	2655	5384	2593	5160	2929	10113	4457	4229	7774	4112	3038	72034
68-69	10763	771	2022	6083	288	2659	5439	2806	4795	2804	10179	4624	4364	8073	4280	3135	73085
69-70	10952	944	2058	5734	295	2650	5567	3018	4891	3067	10387	4612	4617	8232	4377	3189	74590
70-71	11176	846	2125	6857	269	2630	6061	3302	5089	3388	10589	4674	4977	8268	4746	3296	78293
71-72	13591	1009	3555	8513	366	6257	9218	5580	7027	7279	13757	6099	8418	10458	6815	3920	111682
72-73	13960	1035	3646	9144	373	6142	9533	5795	7183	7485	14397	6371	8528	10934	7115	4010	115651
73-74	14047	1111	3766	9115	397	6226	9568	5925	6263	7555	15478	6458	8576	10945	7210	4018	116740

J & K = Jammu and Kashmir

Table III.1 (Contd.)

Year	Andhra	Bihar	Delhi	Gujarat	Jammu & Kashmir	Karnataka	Kerala	Madhya Pradesh	Maharashtra	North Eastern	North Western	Orissa	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Uttar Pradesh	West Bengal	Total
1974-75	14044	9128	386	7214	1123	8577	4022	6357	9570	3779	6310	6016	7547	10992	14573	6584	1,16,222
75-76	14090	9126	395	7220	1144	8584	4044	6773	9639	3812	7387	6114	7595	11058	14748	6772	1,18,481
76-77	14524	9180	448	7301	1185	8655	4177	7023	9788	3883	7703	6207	7777	11175	15190	6843	1,20,999
77-78	14741	9282	477	7423	1220	8803	4218	7930	10188	4371	7827	6409	8089	11314	16083	7008	1,25,283
78-79	15063	9657	508	8007	1268	9008	4352	8837	10640	4837	8057	6792	8556	11490	16457	7459	1,30,988
79-80	15685	10095	524	8322	1288	9189	4512	9715	11208	5159	8332	7062	9164	11642	17255	7847	1,36,999
80-81	16026	10284	548	8415	1339	9337	4590	9934	11428	5276	8440	7220	9340	11737	17367	7933	1,39,224
81-82	16167	10460	560	8477	1389	9465	4648	10120	11630	5383	8517	7302	9442	11834	17628	8063	1,41,085
82-83	16238	10595	576	8522	1413	9518	4677	10225	11737	5491	8583	7375	9498	11898	17793	8157	1,42,296
83-84	16403	10870	587	8624	1444	9565	4748	10489	11992	5672	8700	7536	9625	12010	18132	8322	1,44,719
84-85	16397	10875	591	8652	1446	9547	4751	10496	12098	5679	8699	7539	9619	12010	18148	8330	1,44,875
85-86	16177	10893	574	8596	1457	9535	4748	10520	11953	5683	8795	7535	9616	11994	18127	8313	1,44,396

Table III.1 (Contd)

Year	Andhra	Bihar	Delhi	Gujarat	J&K	Karnataka	Kerala	adhya radesh	Maharashtra	Assam	North East	Punjab	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	Orissa	Rajasthan	Tamil Nadu	Utter Pradesh	West Bengal	Total
1986-87	16120	10843	529	8597	1452	9506	4748	10476	11831	--	5662	3780	2448	2427	7528	9608	11988	18124	8312	1,43,987
87-88	16126	10969	527	8598	1459	9507	4778	10583	11861	3348	2773	3730	2496	2433	7544	9445	12001	18436	8288	1,44,829
88-89	16166	10977	533	8630	1528	9606	4778	10594	11826	3348	2386	3737	2530	2442	7543	9725	12012	18452	8425	1,45,238
89-90	16244	11180	536	8690	1529	9607	4857	10819	11993	3580	2517	3742	2551	2539	7705	9760	12065	18801	8551	1,47,236
90-91	16252	11276	538	8743	1554	9665	4901	10873	12144	3763	2587	3779	2571	2576	7800	9870	12076	19139	8360	1,48,719
91-92	16214	11399	542	8856	1578	9704	4978	11054	12281	3729	2656	3798	2603	2609	7946	10199	12148	19366	8686	1,50,346
92-93	16212	11701	550	8933	1583	9711	5001	11174	12405	3780	2744	3830	2565	2633	8026	10257	12184	19936	8713	1,52,037

J&K = Jammu and Kashmir

Table III.2

Ratio of growth of Post Offices and the postal traffic

Year	No. Of Post Offices	Percentage of increase or decrease per block	No. Of all classes of articles handled	Percentage of increase or decrease per block	Ratio of growth of post offices to the growth of traffic
1854-55	700	1.40	29.62	1.07	130.84%
1864-65	1191	2.39	56.97	2.06	116.02%
1874-75	4178@	8.37	116.20	4.20	199.26%
1884-85	7396@	14.82	226.57	8.19	180.95%
1894-95	10714@	21.47	403.53	14.59	147.16%
1904-05	17651@	35.38	678.92	24.55	144.11%
1914-15	19158	38.39	1049.92	37.96	101.13%
1918-19	19445	38.96	1229.00	44.44	87.67%
1921-22	19557	39.19	1453.00	52.54	74.59%
1922-23	19610	39.29	1218.00	44.04	89.21%
1924-25	19652	39.38	1244.42	44.99	87.53%
1934-35	23714*	47.52	1143.77	41.35	114.92%
1944-45	26741*	53.58	1730.09	62.55	85.66%
14th August 1947	28907*	57.92	N.A	N.A	N.A
1947-48	23344*	46.78	2133.06	77.12	60.66%
1949-50	31161*	42.44	2220.00	80.27	52.87%
1954-55	49907*	100.00	2765.77	100.00	100.00%
1964-65	96895	194.15	5714.22	206.60	93.97%
1974-75	117222	234.89	7181.00	259.64	90.47%
1984-85	144875	290.00	11976.85	430.04	67.44%
1992-93	152037	304.64	13711.54	495.76	61.45%

@ = The figures are inclusive of District Posts

* = Number of experimental (temporary) post offices have also been included in the figures from 1934-35 A.D. onwards.

NA= Not Available

Table III.3

No. of Post Offices and Average Areas and population per Post Office

Year	No. Of Post Offices	Average area served per post office (in miles)	Average population served per post office
1854-55	700	N.A.	N.A.
1864-65	1191	N.A.	N.A.
1874-75	4178	223.98	44578
1884-85	7396	N.A	34328
1894-95	10714	141.17	26625
1904-05	17651	91.92	16011
1914-15	19158	84.66	16676
1924-25	19652	85.77	15805
1934-35	23714	75.17	14203
1944-45	26741	57.73	14292
1947-48	23344	45.68	13039
1953-54	45907	27.66	7773
1954-55	49907	26.00	7165
1964-65	96895	12.10	4531
1974-75	117222	27.30	4674
1984-85	144875	21.86	4730
1992-93	152037	21.60	5546

Table III.4

Circle-wise figures of number of Imperial permanent post offices

Circle	1854-55	1881-82	1904-05	1930-31	1947-48	1954-55	1964-65	1974-75	1984-85	1992-93
West Bengal	170	852	2048	4526*	1505	2354	4094	6584	8330	8713
East Bengal	-	160	547	-	-	-	--	--	--	2744
Assam	-	141	346	-	436	667	1643	3779	5679	3780
Orissa	-	-	-	-	540	1262	2608	6016	7539	8026
Bihar	-	278	688	1727@	1580	2738	5148	9128	10875	11701
Punjab (North West)	-	565	2975 #	4303 #	1978	3175	5023	6310	8699	3830
						Gujarat	3234	7214	8652	8933
North Western Provinces	261	598	-	-	-	Kerala	2526	4022	4751	5001
Oudh	-	170	-	-	-	Mysore (Karnataka)	3508	8577	9547	9711
United Provinces	-	-	1891	2742	2860	--	--	--		
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	5415	9270	14573	18148	19936
Central Provinces Madhya Pradesh	-	277	985	2145	2191	1716	3699	6357	10496	11174
Rajputana Rajasthan)	-	79	466	-	-	1569	2575	7547	9619	10257
Madras Tamil Nadu)	150	794	3262	4527	5285	7363	6679	10992	12010	12184
Andhra	-	-	-	-	-	3003	9193	14044	16397	16212
Hyderabad (Deccan)	-	-	-	-	-	1522	-	--	--	--
Bombay (Maharashtra)	119	728	2204	3115	3834	4791	3859	9570	12098	12405
Sind & Baluchistan	-	77	271	459	Jammu & Kashmir			1123	1446	1583
Delhi	-	-	-	-	31	130	206	386	591	550
British Burma	-	28	350	631	-	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	2565
Central India	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2609
Total:	700	4813	16033	24175	20240	35705	62725	16222	44875	52037
Temporary Post Offices	-	-	106	3104	14085	34170	-	-	-	
Grand Total:	700	4813	16033	24281	23344	49790	96895	16222	44875	52037

* = Figures inclusive of Bengal & Assam

@ = Figures inclusive of Bihar and Orissa

# = Figures inclusive of Punjab and North Western Provinces.

(x)= Figures inclusive of temporary post offices also.

Table III.5

Circle-wise figure of area served per post office

Name of postal circle	Area served per post office								
				in sq. miles)			(in sq. kilometres)		
	1871-72	1904-05	30-31	47-48	54-55	66-67	74-75	84-85	92-93
Bengal	332	60	33.83*	19	11 W.B.	17.9	14.62	10.93	10.49
East Bengal	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	86.38
Assam	-	163	-	114	77 N.E	88.8	45.56	43.60	22.31
Orissa	-	-	-	111	38	33.[illegible]	25.92	20.65	19.40
Bihar	-	61@	4.68@	46	14	23.9	19.6	15.99	14.86
Punjab	191	78	54.27#	19	36	23.6	20.53	18.08	23.98
North Western Provinces	167	-	-	-	- Gujarat	33.1	27.23	22.78	22.07
Oudh	292	-	-	-	- Kerala	11.1	9.24	8.20	7.81
United Provinces	-	86	44.59	43	- Mysore	26.7	22.38	20.09	19.64
Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	18	25.2	20.17	16.22	14.76
Central Provinces	640	144	155	139	74 M.P.	77.8	69.89	42.25	50.42
Rajputana	-	335	-	-	50 Raj.	60.1	45.31	35.58	33.34
Madras	424	56	54.66	47	12 T.N	14.2	11.87	10.91	10.79
Hyderabad (Deccan)	-	-	-	-	27 A.P.	22.2	19.72	16.78	16.96
Bombay	313	65	45.86	36	28 Mah.	37.7	30.61	25.94	22.32
Sind & Baluchistan	-	455	407.55	-	- J & K	252.1	197.68	70.12	140.23
Delhi	-	-	-	19	3 Haryan	4.7	3.88	2.51	20.88
British Burma	3272	676	416.37	-	- H.P.	-	-	-	21.41
All India Averages =	373 +	101	73.73	53	26	33.7	27.30	21.86	21.60

= Figures inclusive of Bengal & Assam
= Figures inclusive of Bihar and Orissa
= Figures inclusive of Punjab and North Western Provinces
= Figures exclusive of Burma
= Mysore later came to be known as Karnataka
W.B. = West Bengal M.P. = Madhya Pradesh T.N. = Tamilnadu J&K = Jammu and Kashmir
N.E. = North East Raj = Rajasthan A.P. = Andhra Pradesh H.P. = Himachal Pradesh

Table III.6

Circle-wise figures of population served per post office

Name of Postal	Population served per post office									
Circle	1871-72	81-82	1904-05	30-31	47-48	54-55	64-65	74-75	84-85	92-93
Bengal (West)	86,688	44,932	21,319	13,357*	14,084	9,639	6,556 N.E	6,767	6,721	8,049
East Bengal	--	55,237	20,979	--	--	--	--	5,165	2,443	3,317
Assam	--	34,620	17,706	--	16,982	7,950	5,290	--	5,988	5,897
Orissa	--	--	--	--	25,420	9,194	3,790	3,646	3,498	3,926
Bihar	--	80,635	33,949	24,510	23,311	8,079	6,414	6,171	6,429	7,379
Punjab	42,410	40,198	10,012@	7,625@	6,457	4,093	,540 N.W	3,710	3,828	5,370
North Western Provinces	63,380	55,956	--	--	--	Jammu and Kashmir	4,109	4,106	4,877	
Oudh	1,46,341	66,987	--	--	--	Kerala	3,766	5,048	5,374	5,326
United Provinces)	--	--	28,804	18,564	20,176	Mysore	3,324	3,412	3,890	4,591
Uttar Pradesh	--	--	--	--	--	9,702	6,172	6,063	6,108	6,974
Central Provinces (M.P)	51,676	51,340	15,649	16,524	18,164	12,129	4,132	6,552	4,971	5,918
Rajputana	--	1,35,812	26,741	--	Rajasthan	5,895	3,326	3,408	3,562	4,278
Madras	84,805	60,934	14,451	14,706	13,359	5,465	3,766	3,781	4,062	4,607
Hyderabad Deccan) (A.P.)	--	--	--	--	--	6,153	2,875	3,089	3,267	4,092
Bombay (Maharashtra)	30,567	31,823	10,894	9,198	8,569	7,458	6,623	5,348	5,293	6,476
Sind & Baluchistan	--	31,348	15,441	10,856	--	Gujarat	3,755	3,709	4,220	4,661
Delhi	--	--	--	--	29,613	10,159	8,521	10,477	10,525	17,036
British Burma	1,13,636	1,33,456	29,973	23,213	--	--	--	--	--	5,553

Figures inclusive of Bengal & Assam M.P =Madhya Pradesh N.E = North Eastern

Figures inclusive of Bihar and Orissa A.P =Andhra Pradesh N.W = North Western

Mysore later came to be known as Karnataka

Table III.7

Number of letter boxes on all-India basis and average area, and population served per letter box.

Year	Number of letter boxes	Average area served per letter box	Average population served per letter box
1855-56	71	-	-
1864-65	420	-	-
1874-75	6181	151.29	30,133
1884-85	10646	-	23,849
1894-95	18102	83.55	15,758
1904-05	40158	31.00	5,427
1914-15	49290	24.00	4,667
1924-25	49959	24.00	4,462
1934-35	59046	21.00	4,074
1944-45	55501	19.00	4,699
1947-48	46776	16.00	4,529
1954-55	106600	10.30	2,899
1964-65	174938	5.20	1,944
*1977-78	362506	9.07	1,512
*1984-85	501223	6.19	1,365
*1991-92	497291	6.61	1,698

* Area in Sq. Kilometers

Table III.8

The length of mail lines (in miles)

Year	Mail motor service	Railways	Runner and boat lines	Mail cart horse and camel lines and cycles etc.,	Steamer services, sea & river boats	Total distance of mail lines
1854-55	-	-	24,467 1/2	6127	-	30,594 1/2
1864-65	-	2,904	33,320	5319	5332	46,875
1874-75	-	6,138 1/2	31,847	4226	13687	55,898 1/2
1884-85	-	11,632	34,482	4049	8355	60,888
1894-95	-	18,463	46,177	5214	13743	83,597
1899-1900	-	21,750	82,874	7569	15741	1,27,934
1904-05	-	26,798	94,418	9009	18580	1,48,805
1908-09	-	31,528	96,299	9723	19083	1,56,633
1914-15	356	34,013	90,979	11490	19835	1,56,675 1/2
1924-25	5211	36,569 1/2	87,089	8763	18485	1,56,117 1/2
1929-30	15074	41,314	87,919	6296	17511	1,68,114
1934-35	20694	41,506	82,513	5392	17497	1,67,216
1944-45	27687	38,835	85,233	4736	2730	1,58,861
14th Aug 1947	28557	41,468	85,457	5773	4945	1,69,321
1947-48	26896	35,029	67,318	2017	2585	1,33,845
1954-55	55807	44,576	1,11,406	1324	2710	2,15,823
1964-65	171498	123,502	3,26,909	8558	3702	6,34,169
*1974-75	290931	142,228	2,89,649	114788	4344	8,41,940
*1983-84	539883	170,608	3,47,956	408548	4894	14,71,889

*Distance furnished in kilometers.

Table III.9

Mail transit time by surface route and under "All-up scheme" between certain stations during 1949 AD.

Transit time		
Station	**By Surface Route (in hours)**	**Under All-UP Scheme (In hours)**
Srinagar to Trivandrum	160	20
Rajkot to Gauhati	139	24
Amritsar to Madras	81	14 1/2
Trivandrum to Gauhati	123 1/2	22

Table IV.1

Traffic trend of letters, Postcards and Letter cards

Year	Number handled by the Post Office (in Millions)		
	Letters	Postcards	Letter cards
1854-55	21.89	-	
1864-65	31.69	-	
1874-75	70.69	-	
1979-80	112.12	7.47	
1884-85	117.82	48.79	
1894-95	179.91	143.00	
1904-05	266.79	299.48	
1913-14	414.80	455.94	
1914-15	448.00	465.00	
1917-18	424.89	531.63	
1920-21	522.42	630.40	
1921-22	550.54	648.47	
1922-23	457.90	523.62	
1924-25	478.33	542.00	
1929-30	517.77	586.53	
1930-31	485.95	540.78	
1931-32	429.68	493.18	
1933-34	411.53	439.31	
1934-35	375.38	433.61	
1939-40	610.19	374.03	
1940-41	573.71	367.59	
1944-45	693.20	606.30	
1945-46	802.60	694.10	
1946-47	843.26	891.60	
1948-49	806.90	902.30	
1949-50	855.08	866.70	
1950-51	-	18.64	
	-		
1953-54	781.40	1067.60	118.73
1954-55	769.39	1084.76	160.00
1957-58	963.71	1322.40	217.15
1958-59	995.70	1455.19	276.40
1964-65	1450.57	2031.76	781.30
1968-69	1570.45	1960.31	998.59
1969-70	1631.37	1894.95	1089.14
1974-75	2013.04	2046.27	1380.29
1984-85	3855.20	2691.70	2767.70
1990-91	4689.56	3260.09	3557.17
1991-92	4413.42	2840.71	3405.09

Table IV.2

Traffic trend of Newspapers sent by post, Book, Sample and Pattern Packets and Parcles.

Number handled by the post office (in lakhs)

Year	Newspapers	Book, sample and pattern packets	Parcels
1854-55	26.20	1.30	4.60
1864-65	49.70	3.90	5.90
1874-75	93.60	16.10	7.90
1884-85	175.10	44.20	13.30
1894-95	281.40	162.00	25.60
1904-05	370.80	394.80	35.60
1914-15	640.00	605.00	85.00
1924-25	744.00	796.00	142.00
1934-35	732.00	1132.80	142.00
1944-45	892.40	1243.20	170.84
1953-54	1850.00	2510.00	223.73
1954-55	1895.56	2810.00	236.95
1964-65	3695.50	5307.66	476.25
1973-74	4383.07	5875.67	505.18
1984-85	8170.00	9192.00	1094.00
1991-92	9225.70	9627.70	1708.20

Table IV.3

Number of Registered Articles handled.

Year	Number of Registered Articles handled (in lakhs)
1854-55	2.24
1864-65	9.16
1874-75	24.42
1884-85	39.85
1894-95	75.74
1904-05	150.65
1914-15	182.07
1924-25	302.49
1934-35	294.96
1944-45	324.85
1946-47	519.80
1948-49	568.59
1949-50	611.79
1953-54	732.22
1954-55	691:02
1964-64	1141.41
1974-75	1313.34
1984-85	2766.50
1991-92	2795.68

Table IV.4

Value Payable Business

Year	Number of articles sent under the system	Amount specified for remittance to the sender (in rupees)	Average value of value payable article (in rupees)
1877-78	413	6,721	16.00
1878-79	7,408	1,32,109	18.00
1884-85	3,36,788	52,73,352	16.00
1894-95	17,35,998	1,99,34,271	11.50
1904-05	48,13,514	5,10,83,631	11.00
1914-15	96,32,787	12,54,09,275	13.00
1924-25	1,15,03,150	26,50,00,000	23.13
1934-35	87,46,000	18,75,00,000	21.50
1944-45	80,81,000	24,68,00,000	31.00
1953-54	90,40,000	32,00,00,000	35.00
1954-55	87,66,000	31,43,00,000	36.00
1964-65	1,01,17,311	41,05,00,000	40.60
1973-74	65,58,000	55,00,00,000	83.87
1983-84	92,80,000	1,01,90,00,000	109.80
1991-92	76,14,000	N.A	N.A

Table IV.5

Insurance Business

Year	No. of insured articles posted (in lakhs)	Declared value of insured articles posted (rupees in lakhs)	Insurance Fee (rupees in lakhs)
1877-78	N.A	25.26	0.13
1884-85	2.75	782.21	1.93
1894-95	2.09	826.63	2.18
1904-05	4.51	1082.67	2.90
1914-15	29.70	7400.00	9.50
1924-25	57.50	16200.00	22.00
1934-35	34.22	10000.00	14.50
1944-45	33.68	14713.00	22.06
1953-54	50.11	14650.00	37.52
1954-55	46.72	13780.00	37.81
1964-65	52.74	15717.00	46.68
1974-75	67.70	26200.00	N.A
1984-85	90.23	N.A	N.A
1991-92	67.95	N.A	N.A

Table IV.6

Money Order Business

Year	Number of inland money orders issued (in lakhs)	Value of money orders issued (in lakhs of rupees)	Commission of money orders issued (in lakhs of rupees)
1880-81	16.04	457.08	N.A
1884-85	35.50	821.00	10.06
1894-95	94.22	1943.09	24.46
1901-02	129.22	2627.19	33.36
1902-03	135.00	2637.50	33.75
1904-05	176.58	3104.29	35.75
1914-15	293.17	5154.82	59.25
1920-21	370.00	8575.00	84.33
1921-22	333.00	7850.00	90.25
1922-23	317.50	7825.00	100.00
1924-25	338.34	8275.61	106.09
1934-35	386.08	7698.60	104.00
1944-45	644.74	17730.31	244.00
1954-55	614.86	21358.00	N.A
1964-65	912.30	43208.51	652.84
1974-75	961.88	85045.64	N.A
1984-85	1289.00	180100.00	6120.00
1990-91	1057.58	293718.85	10874.84
1991-92	1055.67	258724.12	12319.42

Table IV.7

Indian Postal Orders Sold

Year	Number sold (in lakhs)	Value of Indian Postal orders (sold) (in lakhs of rupees)	Commission on Indian Postal orders sold (in lakhs of rupees)
1938-39	8.33	23.23	0.52
1944-45	12.84	65.36	0.63
1954-55	36.47	177.51	2.27
1964-65	42.19	188.66	2.84
1974-75	88.95	473.47	9.14
1984-85	233.20	2728.24	172.41
1991-92	221.73	2876.80	176.14

Table IV.8

Post Office Savings Bank Business

Year	Number of depositors (in lakhs)	Deposits (9ncluding interest) (in lakhs of rupees)	Withdrawals (in lakhs of rupees)	Balance at the end of the year (in lakhs of rupees)	Average balance per depositor (in rupees)
1882-83	0.39	44.03	16.06	27.97	71.72
1884-85	1.23	169.00	110.00	134.42	109.28
1894-95	6.12	431.17	440.32	840.17	137.29
1904-05	10.89	705.00	597.00	1341.00	126.60
1913-14	16.39	1380.00	1124.00	2317.00	141.40
1914-15	16.44	1205.00	2043.00	1489.00	90.60
1918-19	16.77	1590.00	1365.00	1882.00	112.22
1924-25	21.64	2055.97	2041.46	2563.95	118.45
1934-35	31.00	4440.00	3833.00	5830.00	158.10
1938-39	42.41	5185.00	4748.00	8186.00	193.00
1939-40	45.83	4740.00	5094.00	7832.00	170.00
1940-41	28.44	3151.00	5032.00	5961.00	209.20
1941-42	27.56	2723.00	3467.00	5207.00	189.00
1942-43	25.64	2698.00	2683.00	5222.00	203.70
1943-44	27.74	3070.00	2783.00	6418.00	231.40
1944-45	30.95	4913.00	3309.00	8022.00	259.20
1946-47	39.73	10433.00	7703.00	14235.00	358.40
1947-48	31.53	9967.00	8083.00	12811.00	406.30
1954-55	53.85	37902.42	12263.08	25649.32	452.50
1964-65	120.97	80679.66	25119.30	55560.36	459.30
1974-75	277.96	84094.00	84922.00	126591.00	455.00
1983-84	390.04	181903.51	181667.13	213077.06	546.30
1991-92	465.97	493333.31	523208.27	402380.26	863.40

Table IV.9

Investments in Government Securities

Year	Total investment (in lakhs of rupees)
1882-83	0.08
1884-85	2.94
1894-95	4.69
1904-05	18.56
1914-15	130.00
1924-25	492.00
1934-35	1339.00
1944-45	827.00
1947-48	585.00
1953-54	425.58

Table No. VIII.1.

Minimum rates of Inland letter postage

Year	Minimum postage rate	Rate of increase over 1854 A.D. rates	General Price Index	Rate of increase over General Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum rate of letter postage to the rise of General Price Index
1854	1/2 anna	100	-	-	-
1861	" anna	100	19.45	100	-
1921	1/2 anna	100	63.83	328	30%
1922	1 anna	200	63.64	327	61%
1930	1 anna	200	45.37	233	86%
1931	1 1/4 anna	250	31.96	164	152%
1933	1 1/4 anna	250	28.54	147	170%
1934	1 anna	200	29.52	152	131%
1939	1 anna	200	31.48	162	123%
1940	1 1/4 anna	250	30.69	158	158%
1941	1 1/2 anna	300	35.48	182	165%
1942	1 1/2 anna	300	44.77	230	130%
1948	1 1/2 anna	300	97.60	502	60%
1949	2 annas	400	100.00	514	78%
1954	2 annas	400	101.00	519	77.07%
1st April 1957	13 np	400	111	571	70%
18th Sept 1957	15 Paise	500	111	571	88%
1968	20 Paise	666	215	1005	66%
1974	25 Paise	800	369	1897	42%
1979	30 Paise	1000	425	2185	53%
1980	35 Paise	1166	473	2432	39%
1982	50 Paise	1600	578	2972	54%
1983	50 Paise + 5 Paise Stationery Charge	1766	646	3321	53%
1987	60 Paise	1933	874	4494	43%
1988	60 Paise + 15 Paise Stationery Charge	2400	942	4843	50%
1990 11th June	Rs.1	3200	1116	5738	56%
1994	Rs.1	3200	1593	8190	39%

Base year 1954 AD - Minimum rate of Inldna Letter Postage : 100

Table No. VIII.2

Rate of postage levied on Inland Postcard

Year	Rate of postage on post cards	Rate of increase over 1879 A.D. rates	General Price Index	Rate of increase of General Price Index over 1879 A.D. rates	Ratio of rise of minimum rate of Postage rate to the rise of General Price Index
1879	3 paise	100	31.8	100	100%
1921	3 paise	100	63.8	201	50%
1922	6 paise	200	63.8	200	100%
1930	6 paise	200	45.4	143	140%
1931	9 paise	300	32.0	100.60	298%
1945	9 paise	300	66.0	208	144%
1946	6 paise	200	68.5	216	93%
1948	6 paise	200	97.6	307	65%
1949	9 paise	300	100.0	315	95%
1954	9 paise	300	101.0	318	94.34%
1957	5 paise	300	111.0	349	86%
1963	6 paise	400	134.0	421	95%
1968	10 paise	600	215.0	676	89%
1974	15 paise	1000	369.0	1160	86%
1978	15 paise	1000	400.0	1258	79%
1st June 1994	15 paise	1000	1593.0	5009	20%

Table No. VIII.3

Rate of Postage levied on Inland Letter Card

Year	Rate of postage on inland letter card	Rate of increase over 1950 A.D. rates	General Price Index	Rate of increase of general price index over 1950 A.D. rates	Ratio of rise of inland letter card postage rate to the rise of general price index
1950	1 1/2 annas	100	101	100	-
1957	10 np	100	111	110	91%
1968	15 np	150	215	213	70%
1974	20 np	200	369	365	55%
1979	25 np	250	425	421	59%
1982	35 p	350	578	572	61%
1987	35 p	350	874	865	40%
1988 Stationary charge*	35 p + 15 p*	500	942	933	54%
1990	75 p	750	1116	1005	75%
1994	75 p	750	1593	1577	48%

Table No. VIII.4

Rates of minimum postage on newspapers

Year	Minimum postage rate	Rate of increase/decrease over 1854 A.D. rates	General Price Index	Rate of increase in General Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum postage rate on new papers to the rise of General Price Index
1854	4 annas	1600	Not available	Not available	Not available
1860	1 anna	400	NA	NA	NA
1861	1 anna	400	19.45	100	400%
1872	1/2 anna	200	22.78	117	171%
1882	1/4 anna	100	22.09	114	87.72%
1897	1/2 anna	200	36.85	189	105.82%
1898	1/4 anna	100	29.13	128	78.12%
1939	1/2 anna	200	31.48	162	123.46%
1954	1/2 anna	200	101	519	38.54%
1957	2 paise	133	111	571	23.29%
1967	2 paise	133	209	1075	12.37%
1968	5 paise	133	215	1105	30.14%
1969	2 paise	133	213	1095	12.15%
1978	2 paise	133	400	2056	6.47%
1982	5 paise	333	578	2972	11.20%
1987	15 paise	1000	874	4494	22.25%
1994	15 paise	1000	1593	8190	12.2%

Table No. VIII.5

Minimum rates of postage on Book, pattern and sample post

Year	Minimum postage rate	Rate increase/decrease over 1854 A.D. rates	General Price Index	Rate of increase in General Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum rates of postage of packets to the rise of Genreal Price Index
1854	1 annas	200	N.A	N.A	N.A
1861	1 annas	200	19.45	100	200%
1869	2 annas	400	26.29	135	296%
1877	2 annas	400	28.84	148	270%
1878	1/2 annas	100	31.38	161	62%
1934	3/4 annas	150	29.52	152	99%
1937	1/2 annas	100	32.65	168	63%
1940	3/4 annas	150	30.69	158	95%
1953	1 annas	200	103.32	531	38%
1954	1 annas	200	101	519	38.53%
1957	6 paise	200	111	571	35%
1957	8 paise	266	111	571	47%
1961	8 paise	266	126	648	47%
1963	10 paise	333	134	689	48%
1968	15 paise	500	215	1105	45%
1970	20 paise	666	224	1152	58%
1978	25 paise	833	400	2057	40%
1982	30 paise	1000	578	2972	34%
1987	50 paise	1600	874	4494	36%
1990	1 rupee	3200	1116	5738	56%
1994	1 rupee	3200	1593	8190	39%

Table No. VIII.6

Minimum rate of postage charges on Parcels

Year	Minimum Postage rate	Rate of increas/ decrease	General Price index	Rate of increase in General Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum rates of postage on parcels to the rise of General price Index
1870	3 annas	150	24.42	100	150%
1873	4 annas	200	23.17	91	220%
1877	8 annas	400	28.84	113	354%
1880	4 annas	200	26.59	105	190%
1895	2 annas	100	27.66	109	92%
1902	2 annas	100	30.99	122	82%
1937	4 annas	200	33.65	128	156%
1943	6 annas	300	83.58	329	91%
1953	8 annas	400	103	405	98.76%
1954	8 annas	400	101	397	100.76%
1957	50 paise	400	111	437	91.53%
1963	60 paise	480	134	527	91.08%
1967	65 paise	520	209	822	63.26%
1968	80 paise	640	215	846	75.65%
1970	90 paise	720	224	881	81.73%
1971	Rs.1/-	800	230	905	88.40%
1974	Rs.1.50	1200	369	1451	82.70%
1980	Rs.2/-	1600	473	1861	85.98%
1983	Rs.3/-	2400	646	2541	94.95%
1987	Rs.4/-	3200	874	3438	90.08%
1990	Rs.6/-	4800	1116	4390	109.34%
1994	Rs.6/-	4800	1593	6266	76.60%

Base Year 1895 A.D. - Postage charges on parcels : 100

Table VIII.7

Rates of Registration Fee

Year	Registration fee	Rate of increase/ decrease	General Price Index	Rate of increase in General Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum rate of postage on Registration fee to the rise to General Price Index
1854	4 annas	200	N.A	N.A	N.A
1861	4 annas	200	19.45	100	200%
1880	4 annas	200	26.69	137	146%
1881	2 annas	100	22.97	118	85%
1931	3 annas	150	31.96	164	91%
1948	4 annas	200	97.65	502	40%
1951	4 1/2 annas	225	105.00	612	37%
1953	6 annas	300	105.32	531	57%
1954	6 annas	300	101.00	500	60%
1956	8 annas	400	105.00	540	-
1957	50 paise	400	111.00	571	74%
1963	55 paise	440	134.00	689	63.86%
1967	60 paise	480	209.00	1075	46.65%
1968	70 paise	560	215.00	1105	51.14%
1969	75 paise	600	213.00	1095	54.80%
1970	95 paise	760	224.00	1152	65.98%
1971	Rs 1.00	800	230.00	1183	67.62%
1974	Rs 1.25	1000	369.00	1897	52.71%
1976	Rs 2.00	1600	360.00	1851	86.44%
1978	Rs 2.25	1800	400.00	2057	87.51%
1982	Rs 2.75	2200	578.00	2972	74.02%
1987	Rs 4.50	3600	874.00	4494	80.11%
1988	Rs 5.00	4000	942.00	4843	82.59%
1990	Rs 6.00	4800	116.00	5738	83.65%
1994	Rs 6.00	4800	593.00	8190	58.61%

Base Year 1881 A.D. - Rate of Registration Fee : 100

Table No. VIII.8

Rates of Inland Insurance Fee

Year	Rate of Insurance Fee	Rate of increase/decrease	Geenral Price Index	Rate of increase in General Price index	Ratio of rise of minimum rates of insurance fee to the rise of General Price Index
1878	1 anna	100	31.38	100	100%
1879	2 annas	200	31.77	101	198%
1905	1 anna	100	30.11	96	104%
1924	2 annas	200	55.72	178	112%
1931	3 annas	300	31.96	102	294%
1942	4 annas	400	44.77	143	298%
1953	6 annas	600	103.32	329	182%
1954	6 annas	600	101.00	322	186%
1957	37 paise	600	111.00	354	169%
1963	40 paise	650	134.00	427	152%
1967	45 paise	730	209.00	666	109.61%
1968	50 paise	800	215.00	685	116.79%
1976	Rs 1.00	1600	360.00	1147	139.49%
1983	Rs 2.00	3200	646.00	2059	155.42%
1990	Rs 4.00	6400	1116.00	3356	190.70%
1994	Rs 4.00	6400	1593.00	5076	126.08%

Base Year 1905 A.D. - Inland Insurance Fee : 100

Table No. VIII.9

Minimum Commission charge on Inland Money Orders

Year	Rate of Money Order Commission	Rate of increase/decrease	General price Index	Rate of Increase in general Price Index	Ratio of rise of minimum rates of Money Order Commission to the rise of General Price Index
1880	2 annas	200	26.69	100	200%
1901	2 annas	200	31.09	116	172%
1902	1 anna	100	30.99	116	86%
1920	1 anna	100	71.55	268	37%
1921	2 annas	200	63.83	239	84%
1954	2 annas	200	101	365	55%
1957	15 paise	250	111	416	60.10%
1968	20 paise	333	215	806	41.32%
1976	25 paise	400	360	1349	29.65%
1982	30 paise	500	578	2166	23.08%
1988	40 paise	666	942	3529	18.87%
1990	1 rupee	1600	1116	4181	38.26%
1994	1 rupee	1600	1593	5969	26.81%

Base Year 1902 A.D. - Minimum Commission on Inland Money Order : 100

Table VIII.10

Annual Balance Figure of the Department of Post India (in lakhs of Rupees)

Year	Income	Expenditure	Profit/loss
1854-55	32.87	27.39	5.48
55-56	32.11	29.44	2.67
56-57	37.13	29.03	8.1
57-58	36.03	35.93	0.1
58-59	49.4	35.2	14.2
59-60	53.39	37.38	16.01
60-61	51.19	38.61	12.58
61-62	56.74	37.99	18.75
62-63	62.14	37.38	24.76
63-64	67.66	38.76	28.9
64-65	74.37	39.31	35.06
65-66	85.67	41.89	43.78
66-67	60.22	40.29	19.93
67-68	60.84	47.55	13.29
68-69	68.61	53.7	14.91
69-70	68.16	55.97	12.91
70-71	79.83	51.78	28.05
71-72	78.34	50.98	27.36
72-73	55.16	52.32	2.84
73-74	55.78	54.21	1.57
74-75	59.49	55.71	3.78
75-76	63.35	56.39	6.96
76-77	66.89	57.88	9.01
77-78	72.97	60.83	12.14
78-79	74.73	65.57	9.16
79-80	79.9	68.93	10.97
80-81	85.34	74.14	11.2
81-82	87.04	79.59	7.45
82-83	91.07	85.49	5.58
83-84	96.62	89.43	7.19
84-85	99.9	90.72	9.18
85-86	106.05	94.26	11.79
86-87	110.83	97.27	13.56
87-88	116.65	99.58	17.97
88-89	123.05	99.4	23.65
89-90	125.01	104.43	20.58
90-91	134.96	106.34	28.62
91-92	139.98	113.61	26.37
92-93	144.11	114.21	29.9
93-94	151.03	116.36	34.67
94-95	158.21	118.63	39.68
95-96	166.08	122.75	43.32
96-97	172.22	126.46	45.76
97-98	181.5	130.98	50.52
98-99	185.39	131.59	53.8
1899-1900	189.89	138.31	51.58

Table VIII.10 (Contd)

Year	Income	Expenditure	Profit/loss	
1900-01	203.57	183.32		20.25
01-02	207.56	191.71		15.85
02-03	214.49	201.89		12.6
03-04	226.17	210.58		15.59
04-05	236.4	227.92		8.48
05-06	247.73	236.39		11.34
06-07	262.73	240.2		22.49
07-08	273.47	265.89		7.58
08-09	273.69	284.93	(-)	11.24
09-10	289.16	287.92		1.24
10-11	299.55	292.61		6.94
11-12	320.41	292.31		28.1
12-13	339.18	295.8		43.38
13-14	380.45	339.19		41.26
14-15	352.15	310		42.15
15-16	382.77	350.66		32.11
16-17	411.08	354.68		56.4
17-18	436.4	389.89		46.51
18-19	470.67	432.65		38.02
19-20	559.64	485.99		73.65
20-21	566.67	612.66	(-)	45.99
21-22	614.77	672.49	(-)	57.72
22-23	662.28	665.61		26.67
23-24	703.99	668.77		35.22
24-25	669.91	656.78		13.13
25-26	698.45	649.56		48.89
26-27	724.64	703.02		21.62
27-28	745.16	740.7		4.46
28-29	754.18	779.59	(-)	25.41
29-30	789.77	811.24	(-)	21.47
30-31	750.91	813.01	(-)	62.1
31-32	736.84	788.22	(-)	51.38
32-33	734.44	738.51	(-)	6.07
33-34	733.07	744.76	(-)	11.69
34-35	760.26	735.92		24.34
35-36	790.62	768.64		21.98
36-37	804.23	776.89		27.34
37-38	793.88	746.1		47.78
38-39	812.73	777.45		35.82
39-40	831.82	778.14		53.68
40-41	860.72	817.19		43.53
43-44	1460.4	1057.47		402.93
44-45	1624.08	1189.87		434.21
45-46	1875.36	1391.58		483.78
46-47	1765.93	1746.77		19.16
1st April to 14th Aug.1947	683.33	693.63	(-)	10.3
15th Aug. 47 to 31 Nov. 1948	911.39	849.17		62.22

Figures for 1941-42 and 1942-43 are not available

Table VIII.10 (Contd)

Year	Income	Expenditure		Profit/loss
1948-49	1669.51	1827.18	(-)	157.67
49-50	2006.27	2085.74	(-)	79.47
50-51	2122.12	2172.08	(-)	49.96
51-52	2294	2375	(-)	81
52-53	2416	2610	(-)	194
53-54	2654	2646		8
54-55	2793	2816	(-)	23
55-56	2943	2942		1
56-57	3275	3142		133
57-58	3488	3688	(-)	200
58-59	3787	3657		130
59-60	3922	3842		80
60-61	4078	4155	(-)	77
61-62	4562	4328		234
62-63	5095	5006		89
63-64	5662	5302		360
64-65	5937	6065		128
65-66	6600	6891	(-)	291
66-67	7015	7829	(-)	814
67-68	7424	8835	(-)	1411
68-69	9398	10014	(-)	616
69-70	9781	10295	(-)	514
70-71	11054	11140	(-)	96
71-72	11064	11824	(-)	740
72-73	11824	12962	(-)	1138
73-74	13424	14974	(-)	1550
74-75	14207	17785	(-)	3578
75-76	16785	21569	(-)	4774
76-77	19395	22598	(-)	3203
77-78	20689	20887	(-)	198
78-79	23917	22691		226
79-80	25922	27085	(-)	1153
80-81	27810	35025	(-)	7215
81-82	30941	40310	(-)	9369
82-83	37801	46894	(-)	9093
83-84	43454	51684	(-)	8230
84-85	44441	58050	(-)	13609
85-86	47684	64039	(-)	16355
86-87	55750	77393	(-)	21643
87-88	64298	83385	(-)	19087
88-89	74180	91150	(-)	16970
89-90	70259	96558	(-)	26299
90-91	84085	103250	(-)	19165
91-92	94787	116215	(-)	21428
92-93	107390	116571	(-)	9181
93-94	100000	113827	(-)	13827

Table IX.1

British Postal Orders Sold

Year	Number issued	Total value of British Postal orders sold (in pounds)	Commission realised (in rupees)
1884-85	42,294	170,863	N.A
1894-95	13,923	501,637	N.A
1904-05	158,786	106,379	7,521
1914-15	385,905	264,699	15,842
1924-25	236,892	158,005	7,055
1934-35	318,200	212,500	12,300
1944-45	613,630	493,800	20,710
1953-54*	443	306	20,641

* = Sold prior to 16.4.1951 A.D. and accounted for in 1953-54.

Table XII.1

Ratio of paid articles to the total correspondence

Year	Total correspondence (except money orders) (in lakhs)	Paid correspondence	Ratio of paid to the total correspondence (in lakhs)
1854-55 (prior to reforms)	121.72	45.48	37.36%
1854-55 (after introduction of reforms)	211.72	169.01	79.83%
1855-56	235.29	159.49	69.68%
1856-57	269.10	168.74	62.69%
1857-58	295.40	183.23	62.03%
1864-65	510.69	326.10	63.85%
1874-75	1161.19	848.88	73.10%
1884-85	2167.83	1893.64	87.35%
1894-95	3941.04	3660.94	92.89%
1904-05	6789.20	6474.99	95.37%
1914-15	10499.22	10233.91	97.47%
1924-25	12444.25	12233.40	98.30%
1934-35	11437.77	11211.37	98.02%
1944-45	17300.96	17118.31	98.94%
1953-54	26721.68	26471.12	99.06%
1964-65	52211.22	51739.47	99.09%
1974-75	70848.00	70208.19	99.10%
1983-84	34172.75	33145.55	96.99%

Table XII.2

The ratio of growth rate of post offices to the increase in percentage of literate population

Year	Number of post offices	Ratio of gowth of post offfices	Percentage of literate people to the total population	Ratio of growth of literate population	Percentage of increase of post office to the growth of literate population	Literate population per post office
1854-55	700	1.52	NA	NA	NA	
1864-65	1191	2.59	NA	NA	NA	
1874-75	4178	9.10	NA	NA	NA	
1884-85	7396	16.11	3.37	20.30	79.36%	1157
1894-95	10714	23.33	4.22	25.42	91.78%	1123
1904-05	17651	38.45	5.63	33.92	113.35%	901
1914-15	19158	41.73	5.79	34.88	119.64%	965
1924-25	19652	42.80	7.14	43.01	99.51%	1128
1934-35	23714	51.66	8.28	49.88	103.57%	1176
1944-45	26741	58.25	12.23	73.67	80.16%	1748
1954-55	49907	100.00	16.60	100.00	100.00%	1290
1964-65	96895	194.15	23.98	144.45	130.02%	1086
1974-75	117222	234.88	29.45	176.20	133.30%	1367
1984-85	144875	290.29	36.10	217.46	133.49%	1708
1992-93	152037	304.64	42.90	267.12	114.05%	2379

Base year - 1953-54 A.D. : 100
NA = Not available

DETAILS OF POSTAGE STAMPS CONTAINED IN THE PLATES

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29.	29	"	"	307	436
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DETAILS OF POSTAGE STAMPS CONTAINED IN THE PLATES

Figure No	Date of issue	Denomination	Subject

Theme 1 : Flora and Fauna

Plate No. 1.

Roses (figures 1 and 2)

1. 23 Dec. 1984 150 paise. Rose (Mrinalini).

2. " 200 " Rose (Sugandha). History of this beauteous flower, Rose in India dates back to 334-323 B.C., when it is reported that Alexander the Great in his epic drive to the borders of India sent one of the newly discovered rose plants back to his mentor Aristotle and to ancient Greece. Later during the Mughal period too, the legendary gardens at Samarkhand and at the famous monument of Taj Mahal roses were present. It is to India that the world owes the discovery of otto or 'attar' of roses. Empress Nur Jahan once noticed an oily film floating on surface of her favourite rose water bath. This substance separated and distilled and rose oil or attar was discovered.

Indian Trees (figures 3 to 7)

3. 19 Dec. 1987 150 paise. Indian Tree - "Pipal" (Ficus Religiosa Linn) is venerated by Hindus and Buddhists.

4. 19 December 1987 60 paise. Indian Tree - The 'Chinar' (Platanus Orientals). It provides timber for furniture and is also of medicinal value.

5. 19 November 1987 · 500 paise. Indian Tree. - The 'Sal' (Shorea Robusta Roxb) is covering 13.3% of the total forest area in India, it is valued for its timber. Sal finds mention even in the Great epics "Ramayana" and Maharabharata" and in Kalidasa's 'Ritusamhar' and 'Meghadoota'.

6. 19 November 1987 25 paise. Indian Tree - The Coconut tree is termed as a 'Kalpavriksha' (the all giving tree) in literary classics of India. It is one of the five legendary 'Devavrikshas' or Godly trees.

7. 19 December 1987 650 paise. Indian Tree - The Banyan (Ficus Benghalensis) is colloquially called the 'Bargad'or 'Vat.' A giant tree with a spreading crown, attaining at times 30-35 m. The Calcutta Botanical Gardens contain a Banyan covering 1.7 hectares, considered to be over 225 years old.

Bougainvillea (figures 8 and 13).

8. 05 June 1985 50 paise. The Bougainvillea, a native of South America, was first collected by Commerson, a French Botanist at Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, who named it after Loius Antoine de Boungainvillea the French Navigator, with whom he went on a voyage round the world during 1766-1769 AD. From its native home in South America, the Bougainvillea moved out to Europe during the 19th Century. It was first introduced to India in 1860 AD.

9. 01 Nov. 1981 35 paise. Flowering Tree - Flame of the Forest is considered useful for reclaiming saline lands.

10. 01 Nov. 1981 50 paise. Flowering Tree - Crateva is named after Cratevas (Krateuas) a Greek naturalist and physician of the Ist Century B.C.

11. 01 Nov. 1981 100 paise. Flowering Tree - Bauhinia

12. " 200 " " - Golden Shower

13. 05 June 1985 100 " Bougainvillea

14. 20 Oct. 1981 35 " Butterfly - Stichopthalma Camadeva

15. 12 Oct. 1991 300 " Orchids

16 20 Oct. 1981 200 " Butterfly - Teinopalpus Imperialis

17. 12 Oct. 1991 650 " Orchids

18. 20 Oct. 1981 50 " Butterfly - Cethasia Biblis

19. 01 July 1977 50 " Indian Flower - Rhododendron

20. 29 May 1982 200 " Himalayan Flowers-Asrisaema Walichianum

21. " 35 " " - Meconopsis Aculeata

22. " 100 " " - Inula Grandiflora

23. " 285 " " - Saussurea Obvallata

24. 01 July 1977 100 paise. Indian Flower - The Kadamba (Anthoce phalus chinensis), a tree associated with the childhood of Lord Krishna,is one of the most ancient shade-giving ornamentals.

25. 01 July 1977 25 paise Indian Flower - Lotus (Nelumbo nucifera gaertner) - National Flower. Legend says that the sacred lotus emerged from the navel of Lord Vishnu enveloping Brahma, the creator, in its satin-smooth petals.

Details of Postage Stamps

26. 09 Oct. 1993 800 paise. Flowering Trees - Erythine Variegate (Hindi name - Dadap, Panyara).

27. 09 Oct. 1993 600 paise. Flowering Tree - Cochlospermum religlosum (Hindi name - Khumphi, Galgal)

28. 09 Oct. 1993 1100 paise. Flowering Tree " - Thespesia poputnea (Hindi name - Paras Pipal).

29. 01 July 1977 200 " Indian Flower - Gloriosa Lily.

Plate No. 2.

30. 01 Oct. 1983 100 paise. Golden Langur

31. 01 Oct. 1982 285 " Kashmir Stag

32. 10 Oct. 1976 100 " Leopard is also known as Panther.

33. 01 Oct. 1982 25 " Swamp Deer

34. 07 Oct. 1973 30 " Indian Elephant

35. 01 Oct. 1976 200 paise. Caracal

36. 07 Oct. 1963 10 " Gaur

37. 29 Nov. 1987 100 " White Tiger Rewa

38. 07 Oct. 1963 1 Re. Indian Lion

39. 01 Oct. 1983 200 paise. Lion Tailed Macaque

40. 07 Oct. 1983 100 paise. Himalayan Panda

41. 15 Dec. 1986 200 paise. Elephant - 50 Years of Carbett National Park. The Park was established on 08 Aug. 1936 AD.

42. 07 Oct. 1976 50 paise. Lion

43. 15 Dec. 1986 200 paise. 50 Years of Carbett National Park - Lion.

44. 30 May 1983 100 paise. 50 Years of Kanha National Park which sprawls over 940 sq. kms in Mandla and Balaghat Districts of Madhya Pradesh is reckoned as one of the richest wildlife treasure troves of Asia.

45. 01 Nov. 1980 230 paise. Great Indian Bustard.
46. 30 Dec. 1992 200 paise. Bird of Prey - Pandion Haliaetus Haliaetus (Osprey)

47. 10 Feb. 1976 25 paise. Bird Sanctuary Bharatpur, Rajasthan is one of the most spectacular water-bird sanctuaries in the world.

48. 15 Sep. 1983 100 paise. Bombay Natural History Society. The society's collection of approximately 25,000 bird skins, 20,000 mammal skins, 50,000 insect specimens and 3,000 reptiles is unparalleled in country except, perhaps, by the Zoological Survey of India. Its library has extremely valuable and rare books - making it an effective focal point for researchers in the field of natural history. This, combined with its long tradition of high scientific integrity and competence, has produced a series of eminent naturalists - perhaps the best known to contemporary generations being Dr. Salim Ali - whose unbiased opinions are sought and accepted as authoritative by the world's leading scientific organisations.

49. 30 Dec. 1992 600 paise.	Bird of Prey - Falco Peregrinus Peregrinator (Shahin Falcon)
50. 20 Dec. 1989 200 "	Likh Floriken
51. 31 Dec. 1968 50 "	Wood Pecker - This hill bird is common in the forests of Western Himalayas.
52. 18 May 1985 200 "	White Winged Wood Duck
53. 31 DEc. 1968 2 Rs.	Sunbird - is found in moist ever-green forests throughout India.
54. 30 Dec. 1992 1100 paise	Bird of prey - Gypaetus Barbatus Aureus (Himalayan bearded Vulture).
55. 28 Apr. 1975 25 "	Indian Pitta
56. 30 Dec. 1992 800 "	Bird of Prey - Aquila Chrysaetos Daphanea (Himalayan Golden Eagle).
57. 07 Feb. 1983 285 "	Siberian Crane
58. 28 Apr. 1975 100 "	Western Tragopan
59. 31 Dec. 1968 1 Re.	Babbler - is found in forested country throughout India.
60. 28 Apr. 1975 50 paise	Black headed Oriole
61. 31 Dec. 1968 20 "	Blue Magpie - is a common bird at all west -Himalayan Hill stations.
62. 28 Apr. 1975 200 "	Monal Pheasant

Theme 2 : Archaeological and Architecture

Plate No. 3.

The cultural heritage of a nation gets reflected in all creative activities of which architectural creations are excellent examples and India being the grove of great civilisations is rich in this regard.

1. 13 June 1985 100 paise Didarganj Yakshi.

2. 17 Oct. 1987 500 paise. Dewan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) in Red Fort Delhi belongs to the days of magnificient Mughals. It was constructed during the reign of Shah Jahan who moved into the Red Fort in 1648 AD with his court.

3. 19 Mar. 1967 15 paise. Taj Mahal (Crown of the palace) at Agra is considered to be one of the seven wonders in the world.

4. 17 Oct. 1987 60 paise. Iron Pillar Delhi in the courtyard of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque in the Qutab Minar complex, is the silent tribute to the metallurgical skill of the ancient Indians. What makes it exceptional is that it shows no signs of rust despite constant exposure to the atmosphere for nearly fifteen hundred years. It has an inscription in Gupta script and is built in memory of Chandragupta II, probably in the first half of the 5th century AD.

5. 03 July 1987 650 paise. Sadyah Snata, Sanghol. The sculpture depicts a lady in the full bloom of youth wringling her wet tresses to squeeze out water. The site of Sanghol was occupied by the people of the Harappan civilisation around 2000 B.C.

6. 23 Mar. 1982 305 paise. Kaliya Mardana (9th century AD). The large size image, cost in bronze shows Krishna dancing on the serpent hoods of Kaliyanaga. A Kaliya-Krishna of the period of transition from Pallava to Chola and nearer the earliest phase of Chola idiom, this belongs to 9th Century AD. The delicate treatment of the dancing figure balanced on the hoods of the snake and the charm of the Nagaraja represented against the snakehoods are noteworthy.

7. 15 Aug. 1949 1 Re. Victory Tower, Chittaurgarh, 1442-49 AD (Definitive).

8. 30 Apr. 1951 2 1/2 As. Bodh Gaya Temple, a shrine erected on the spot where Lord Buddha, received supreme enlightenment (6th century AD).

9. 13 Jun. 1985 200 paise. Yaudeha Coin. The coin whose obverse is seen on the stamp is a numismatic rarity, an ancient coppercast coin which was in circulation over 2000 years ago. Issued by the Yaudeha Tribal Republic of 200 B.C., the coin is rich in the symbology of typical of those times. The deer represents the gentle and compassionate doctrine of "Ahimsa", credo of the Buddha, which held all life to be sacred. Above the deer appears the "Kalash", the pot of plenty; and above the pot, the symbol of "Shri" goddess of good fortune and well being. The reverse depicts the Republic's Diety, Karthikeya, the second son of Lord Shiva and His consort Parvati.

10. 15 Aug. 1949 3 As. Sanchi Stupa East Gate, Central India, circa 150 B.C. (Definitive).

11. 15 Aug. 1949 10 Rs. Qutab Minar, Delhi (Definitive) 11th to 12th Century AD.

12. 23 Mar. 1982 200 paise. Ancient Sculpture - Deer (c.5th century AD).

13. 15 Aug. 1949 2 Rs. Red Fort, Delhi built by Shah Jahan (1638 -48 AD).(Definitive)

14. 15 Aug. 1949 3 pies. Elephant, Ajanta Caves near Bombay (5th century AD).

15. 15 Aug. 1949 4 As Lingaraja Temple, Bhuvaneswara, Orissa - 1000 AD. (Definitive).

16. 15 Aug. 1949 AD 2 As	Nataraja or King of Dance (Definitive). The image represents the well known form of Shiva in which he appears as the cosmic dancer. This image is from Tiruvelangadu, Madras (1100 AD).
17. 15 Aug. 1949 15 Rs.	Shantrunjaya, Jain Temple in Palitana (1618 AD).
18 01 Sep. 1966 8 As.	Victoria Memorial, Calcutta (Definitive).
19. 15 Aug. 1949 6 pies.	Horse, Surya Temple of Konark (1230 -1246 AD) - (Orissa) and dedicated to Surya (the Sun). (Definitive).
20. 15 Aug. 1949 8 As.	Kadarya (Cave) Mahadeva Temple (Definitive), Khajuraho in Bundelkhand (10th Century AD). The architecture of this most remarkable temple in North India resembles Mount Kailash of the Himalayas, the abode of Lord Shiva.
21. 15 Aug. 1949 1 Anna.	Bodhisatva Simhananda Lokeswara in the Lucknow Museum (Definitive).
22. 15 Aug. 1949 9 pies.	Trimorti (Definitive). - Siva in Elephanta Cave (8th Century AD) -Shiva-Trinity, the metaphysical triune image representing the cosmic spirit in the central face and terrible one in the right face while the left face emanating love, compassion and kindness.
23. 16 Oct. 1967 60 paise.	Somnath Temple (Definitive).
24. 15 Aug. 1949 6 As.	Gol Gumbad, Bijapur (Definitive). One of the largest dome in the world on the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah (1626 - 56 AD).
25. 15 Mar. 1967 70 paise.	Hampi Chariot (Definitive). Hampi is the birth place of Vijayanagar Empire (1350 - 1565 AD). The mines of the empire were famous for their diamonds. It is believed that the 'Kohinoor' diamond came from one of them.
26. 15 March 1967 3 As.	Secretariat. Inauguration of Delhi 1931 AD.
27. 14 Dec. 1961 15 np.	Pitalkora Yaksha. The sculpture was found in Pitalkora caves located in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra. These caves date back to 2nd century B.C.
28. 24 Jan. 1966 15 paise.	Maqbara, Sikandra, Agra (6th century AD).
29. 14 Dec. 1961 90 np.	Kalibanjan Seal. The seal found in Kalabhanjan near Udaipur in Rajasthan bears the Harappan script (2500 B.C. - 1700 B.C.). The seal appears to have been used for stamping

	packages containing commodities of sea trade to adjacent countries in Western Asia and Mesopotamia.
30. 1935 1/2 Anna.	Gateway of India, Bombay.
31. 03 Aug. 1984 100 paise.	Forts of India - Vellore.
32. " 200 "	" - Jodhpur .
33. 31 July 1993 200 "	Greater Bombay Municipal Corporation Building (1889-1893 AD).
34. 03 Aug. 1984 50 "	Forts of India - Gwalior.
35. " 150 "	" - Simhagad.
36. 17 Oct. 1987 150 "	India Gate, New Delhi.
37. 25 June 1991 500 paise, 650 paise.	Diamond Jubilee of New Delhi. Since ancient times, Delhi had been the capital of India. Legend has it that it was founded as Indraprastha by Pandavas during the later Vedic Period. Since then, through the milleniums, by and large, Delhi retained its status as capital as well as seat of power. British also realised this historical necessity. The transfer of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi and the inauguration of the new capital took place in 1931 AD. The city is famous for its abundance in archaeological structures pertaining to the medieval period.
38. 24 Dec. 1990 500 paise.	Charminar in Hyderabad.

Theme 3 : Postage Stamps issued by the Princely States

Plate No. 4

1. Mysore 2. Hyderabad 3. Indore State 4. Jhind State 5. Nabha State 6. Faridkot 7 & 8. Gwalior 9. Chamba State 10. Patiala State 11. Kotah State 12. Alwar Rajputana 13. Dhar State 14. Jaipur State 15. Bhopal State 16. Charkhari State 17. Idar State 18. Devas 19. Moree State 20. Holkar State 21. Cochin 22. Travancore 23. Jodhpur 24. Saurashtra 25. Bhawalpur 26. Benaras.

Theme 4 : Post Office

Plate No. 5.

1. 14 Nov. 1973 3 Rs. Peacock - the National Bird of India. Indipex 73 (Miniature Sheet).
2. 25 Dec. 1975 200 paise. Indian Bishop Mark 1775 AD - Inpex 75. The letter with the Bishop Mark used on the stamp of Rs 2 was sent from Calcutta to Dacca in 1775 AD, stamped "CALCUTTA" and "POST PAID" in addition to the Bishop Mark "2 Feb".
3. 25 Jan. 1980 200 paise. Rowland Hill (1795 - 1879 AD) - Father of the postage stamp and the benefactor of human race.
4. 25 Jan. 1980 100 paise. Copper Ticket - 1774 AD - India - 80. Copper tickets of 2 annas introduced in 1774 AD for the facility of prepayment of postage of letters.
5. 30 Dec. 1982 200 paise. The Fourth Indian National Philatelic Exhibition, Inpex -82 - held in Delhi.
6. 1937 2 As 6ps. Modes of Conveyance - Bullock Cart.

7.	1937	2 As.	Mail Runner
8.	02 Jul. 1979	50 paise.	Centenary of Postcard
9.	19 Oct. 1977	100 paise.	Scinde Dawk - First Postage Stamp in Asia - Famed Red Scinde Dawks of 1852 AD.
10.	01 Jul. 1968	20 paise:	1,00,000 Post Offices. The hundred thousandth post office was opened at Brahmpur Chaurasta in Bihar.
11.	25 Dec. 1975	25 paise.	Mail Cart - The Mail cart of early days was drawn by one or more horses. It dashed past at a tremendous pace uphill and downhill and through the plains carrying mails.
12.	1937	3 As. 6 ps.	Modes of conveyance - Camel
13.	20 Jan. 1989	150 paise.	Travelling Coach and Post Office better known as "Dak Garee" (Mail Cart), the three wheeld cart was used in 1841 AD by one Mr. Smith. Thereafter post offices hired wheeled carts.
14.	25 Jan. 1980	30 paise.	Army Post Office.
15.	12 Oct. 1977	25 paise.	Early Postman of Punjab.
16.	01 Feb. 1984	100 paise.	100 Years of Postal Life Insurance. The peepul tree represents growth, stability and protection. The high green leaves show youth and dark green leaves indicate maturity.
17.	30 Nov. 1989	100 paise.	Pigeon Post.
18.	31 Oct. 1971	20 paise.	World Thrift Day. 31st October is being observed as World Thrift Day as per proclamation of the International Savings Bank Congress held in Milan (Italy) in 1924 AD, which reaffirmed its faith in the ideal of thrift as a step to human happiness.
19.	25 Dec. 1993	100 paise.	Speed Post. Express Mail Service (EMS) is the generic name used universally for high speed premier and guaranteed mail delivery service. India joined the network when Speed Post was launched by the Department by Posts on 1st August 1986 AD.
20.	23 Oct. 1982	50 paise.	100 Years of Post Office Savings Bank.
21.	1937	8 As.	Modes of conveyance - Motor vehicle.
22.	23 Dec. 1970	1 Re.	Indian National Philatelic Exhibition, 1970 AD.
23.	25 Jan. 1980	50 paise.	Money Order.
24.	14 Feb. 1986	200 paise.	Mobile (Camel) Post Office - functioning in Thar Desert.
25.	20 Nov. 1989	60 paise.	Gurunath Bewoor - First Indian Director General of Post Offices.
26.	19 Oct. 1977	300 paise.	Foreign Mail, Bombay 1927 AD.
27.	09 Oct. 1986	500 paise.	200 Years of Madras General Post Office. The Madras GPO is one of the three unique offices in the country called as Presidency Offices, the other two being Bombay and Calcutta.
28.	28 Dec. 1994	600 paise.	Bombay General Post Office - was established in 1794 AD. Till 1869 AD, this GPO was housed in a congerie of small buildings near the Apollo Pier. These buildings were lost in a fire. Following the fire, the GPO moved in 1869 AD into the building built for it. In course of time, that building

became inadequate for the GPO, and very early in this country, plans were already afoot for construction of a new building. Mr. John Begg, Consulting Architect to the Government, was given the task. He designed the present building, and was in charge of its construction, which took nine years from 1904 AD. In 1913 AD, GPO moved into this building with 12,000 square metres of work-space in two floors. This edifice situated in the heart of the city is a crowning heritage building.

29. 11 Jul. 1989 100 paise. Dakshin Gangotri Post Office became operational from 24th February 1984 AD. The stamp depicts its ice bound surroundings amidst other establishments of the Indian Scientific Station, Dakshin Gangotri, Antarctica. On 26th January 1988 AD, a post office was eatablished at Dakshin Gangotri under Goa Postal Division.

Theme 5 : Miscellaneous

Plate No. 6.

1.	28 Mar. 1987	200 paise	Centenary of South Eastern Railway
2.	"	400 "	"
3.	16 Apr. 1973	1100 "	Mountain locomotives - Kalka - Simla
4.	28 Mar. 1987	100 "	Centenary of South Eastern Railway 1887-1987
5.	"	150 "	"
6.	15 Mar. 1976	100 "	Indian Locomotives - WP Broad Guage 1963
7.	"	200 "	" - GIP No 1853
8.	16 Apr. 1993	100 "	Mountain Locomotives - Nepal
9.	15 Mar. 1976	25 "	Indian Locomotives - WDM 2 Diesel 1963
10.	16 Apr. 1993	800 "	Mountain Locomotives - Nilgiri Mountain Railway
11.	"	600 "	Mountain Locomotives - DHR (Darjeeling)
12.	15 May 1976	50 "	Indian Locomotives - F1 Metre Guage 1895
13.	18 Dec. 1982	285 "	Centenary of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway
14.	30 Jan. 1991	650 "	Road Safety
15.	05 Mar. 1991	500 "	Beware of Drugs
16.	11 Dec. 1991	100 "	Run for your Heart
17.	09 Dec. 1973	650 "	Heart Care Festival
18.	01 Oct. 1976	25 "	Voluntary Blood Donation
19.	30 Dec. 1991	200 "	Bhujangasana
20.	"	650 "	Ustrasana
21.	"	500 "	Dhanurasana
22.	"	1100 "	Utthita Trikonasana

23. 21 Oct. 1982 50 " Police Beat Patrol - The concept of organised Police activity in India is of recent origin although we do find some references to an incipient police technology operating in ancient India. In ancient India amongst the first descriptions of a police activity, we find a reference in the epic Ramayana. Hanuman was sent by Lord Rama to the city of Lanka for reconnaissance. On returning from Lanka, (Sundara Kanda IV : 16) Hanuman described to Lord Rama, among other things, the opulence of the city and

referred to a system of patrolling of the streets of Lanka by persons carrying sticks "Dandayudhadharas". These persons undertook the duties of keeping the street clear for unwanted traffic. When the Mughals came to India to rule, they organised the 'Kotwal' system. Earlier the ancient text of Kautilya's "Arthasastra" advised the king to develop efficient system of espionage as an instrument of administration. This was also a kind of police activity. The system of policing as we know it today was first brought into force in India by the East India Company after the uprising of 1857 AD when it was realised that the territories governed by the East India and thereafter by the Government in England, required an efficient system of jurisprudence and a machinery to enforce the law. In 1860 AD the House of Commons in England passed the Indian Police Act, 1861 AD and at the same time enacted the Indian Penal Code. The Indian Police system was established on the basis of the acts promulgated in India in the 1860's AD as mentioned above. The police today are the primary civil agency in the welfare state to serve the people in protecting their life and property.

24. 21 Oct. 1986 150 paise and 200 paise 125th Anniversary of Indian Police. The police in India have been organised State-wise and are controlled and financed by the State Governments. the Central Government has a vital role to play in the improvement of training, welfare and efficiency of policemen all over the country. The Central Government have accordingly set up a number of police training institutions, Forensic Science Laboratories and the Central Finger Print Bureau, The Bureau of Police Research and Development, the Central Bureau of Investigation, the National Crime Records Bureau and a number of para-military forces like the Border Security Force and the Central Reserve Police in aid of the State police forces.

25. 27 July 1981 60 " Central Reserve Police Force

Theme 6 : Airways and Air Mail

Plate No. 7.

1.	1929 2 As.	Air Mail Stamp. India is the first country in the British Commonwealth to issue a separate special set of Air Mail Stamps.
2.	18 Feb. 1961 15 np.	First Aerial Post - Golden Jubilee. India is the first country in the world to use Aerial Post in 1911 AD. World's first air mail service was organised in February 1911 AD, when Henri Piquet flew mail from Allahabad to Naini Junction.
3.	1929 12 As.	Air Mail Stamp.
4.	15 Nov. 1991 650 paise	Kites.
5.	23 Dec. 1978 100 paise.	First Powered Flight. On December 17, 1903 AD, Wilbur and Orville Wright flew their heavier-than-air flying machine from a desolate spit of land jutting out in the Atlantic Ocean, a place called Kitty Hawk, in North Carolina.
6.	21 Nov. 1983 100 paise.	Bicentenary of Man's First Flight.
7.	21 Nov. 1983 200 paise.	Bicentenary of Man's First Flight. Balloons were used in man's first successful attempts at flying. On 5th June 1783 AD, Joseph and Jacques Etienne, Montgofier brothers, French paper manufacturer at Annonay, France, launched the first balloon flight unmanned. Ballooning in India dates back to as early as 1877 AD.

8.	08 June 1973	1.45 Rs	Air India - 25 Years of Service. On 8th June 1948 AD, India entered the field of International Air Transport. 'Air India International' (as it was then known), constellation ' Malabar Princess' took off from Bombay to London via Cairo and Geneva.

Carriers of Mail by Air (figures 9, 10, 12 and 20)

9.	15 Oct. 1979	50 paise.	Air Mail - Air Force Helicopter.
10.	15 Oct. 1979	30 paise.	Air Mail - Puss Moth Air Craft.
11.	15 Oct. 1982	325 paise.	50 Years of Civil Aviation. JRD Tata against the background of his aircraft 'Puss Moth' which was flown by him on 15 Oct. 1932 AD from Karachi to Bombay.
12.	10 Dec. 1979	100 paise.	Indian Airlines (Boeing 737).
13.	10 Dec. 1979	30 paise.	Flying and Gliding .
14.	18 Feb. 1961	1 Re.	First Aerial Post - Golden Jubilee.
15.	18 Feb. 1986	300 paise.	75th Anniversary of First Aerial Post.
16.	26 Jan. 1955	14 As.	Aircraft flying over Kashmir (Definitive).
17.	08 June 1948	12 As.	Air India International.
18.	26 Feb. 1972	20 paise.	Arvi Satellite Earth Station.
19.	26 Jan. 1955	10 As.	Aircraft Flying over Bombay (Definitive).
20.	15 Oct. 1979	200 paise.	Air India (Boeing 747).
21.	18 Feb. 1986	50 paise.	75th Anniversary of First Air Mail Post.
22.	01 Dec. 1976	200 paise.	Indian Airlines - Inauguration Air Bus. Starting with Dakotas and Skymasters, the airline has progressively modernised its fleet which in 1976 AD, consisted of Boeing 737s, Caravelles, F-27s, Viscounts, Hs-748s and Airbus. The faster and quieter 278-seater Airbus powered by CF6-50 engines flies on the trunk routes serving passengers between Bombay-Delhi, Bombay-Calcutta, Bombay-Madras, Bombay-Bangalore and Delhi-Calcutta. With a normal complement of passengers the Airbus carries 10 tonnes of cargo on each flight.
23.	18 Mar. 1991	650 paise.	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite is playing a vital role in the management of country's natural resources.
24.	07 Apr. 1984	300 paise.	Indo-Soviet Joint Manned Space Aircraft. Sqn. Ldr. Rakesh Sharma, an outstanding test pilot of the Indian Air Force is the first Indian to go into space when he along with two other Soviet cosmonauts round the earth for eight days during the Joint Indo-Soviet Manned Space Flight.
25.	01 Oct. 1954	4 As.	Postage Stamp Centenary - Cycle, Train, Ship and Plane.
26.	01 Oct. 1954	2 As.	Postage Stamp Centenary - Pigeon and Plane.
27.	19 Dec. 1992	1100 paise.	Rocket Mail - Stephen Smith (1891 - 1951 AD) was born at Strawberry Hill, Shillong, Assam. He was the first rocket experimenter to convey successfully in one of his rockets parcels of food stuff, medicine livestock and mails.

Theme 7 : Official/Service Postage Stamps

Plate No. 8.

(a) With Portrait of Queen Victoria issued from 1866 AD onwards : 1. Half Anna 2. One Anna

(b) With Portrait of King Edward VII issued from 1902 AD onwards : 3. Two rupees 4. One Anna 5. Six Annas

(c) Containing the Portait of King George V issued from 1911 AD onwards : 6. 3 pies 7. 1/2 Anna 3. Nine pies 9 to 11. 1 Anna 12. Two Annas 13. 2 Annas 6 pies 14. Four Annas 15. Six Annas 16. 1 Rupee 17. 2 Rupees 18. 8 Annas 19. 12 Annas

(d) Containing the Portrait of King George VI issued from 1937 AD onwards : 20. 3 pies 21 & 22. Half Anna 23. 9 pies 24. 2 Rupees 25. 1 Anna 3 pies 26. One and half anna 27. 2 Annas 28. Two and half anna

(e) Containing the State Emblem the Ashoka Capitol issued during the post-independence period : 29. 3 Annas issued in 1950-51 AD. 30. 4 Annas issued in 1950-51 AD.
31 to 34. 1 Re., 2 Rupees 5 Rupees & 10 Rupees issued during 1958-71 AD.
35 & 36. 7 np and 15 np issued during 1958-71 AD.

Theme 8 : Revenue or Receipt Stamps etc.

Plate No. 9.

1 & 2. Half anna and one anna - with the Portrait of King Edward VII issued in 1902 AD.
3 to 5. Half anna, one anna and 5 Annas - with the Portrait of King George V issued from 1926 AD onwards.
6 to 9. Post independence issued of 15th August 1947 AD onwards
10. 'Postal Service' Stamp
11. Customs Revenue Stamp
12. Indian Postal (IPN) Stamp
13. Passport Fee Stamp
14. Refugee Relief Stamp.
15. 2 Annas 6 pies stamps with overprint **'I.E.F'**
16 & 17. 1/2 Anna and 1 Anna stamps with overprint **I.E.F 'D'** for use in the Middle East.
18. 15 np - Children's day stamps containing Brass lamp with overprint **'ICC'** in Hindi and English and issued on 15th January 1965 AD.
19. 3 Pies (Definitive stamp) containing Brass lamp with overprint **'ICC'** in Hindi and English and issued on 2nd October 1968.

Theme 9 : Children's Day

Plate No. 10.

1. 14 Nov. 1992 100 paise	Sun
2. 14 Nov. 1966 15 np	Infant and Peace Dove
3. 14 Nov. 1973 20 "	Children at Play
4. 14 Nov. 1983 50 "	Two Girls

5. 14 Nov. 1990 100 "	Tilted Doll and a Cat by three years old child Subhas Kumar Nagaraja of Madurai.
6. 14 Nov. 1961 15 np	Boy working at a Lathe Machine. The stamp shows a boy working at a lathe in an institution in Bombay. Such vocational training for children is intended to help them to became worthy citizens of the country.
7. 14 Nov. 1957 15 np	Recreation
8. 14 Nov. 1962 15 "	Child is the Standard bearer of tomorrow
9. 14 Nov. 1957 8 "	Nutrition
10. 14 Nov. 1960 15 "	Children's Health
11. 14 Nov. 1959 15 "	Children awaiting admission to Children's Home
12. 14 Nov. 1958 15 "	Nurse tending a child patient
13. 14 Nov. 1964 15 "	8th National Children's Day. Nehru (Uncle Nehru). The Birth anniversary of late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is celebrated as Children's Day every year. The medium of stamp is chosen on this occasion for spreading awareness of children's rights, their survival and development.
14. 14 Nov. 1963 15 "	School Meals
15. 14 Nov. 1971 20 paise	Women at Work - by child artist Geeta Gupta
16. 14 Nov 1978 25 "	Two Friends - painting by Dinesh Verma
17. 14 Nov. 1975 25 "	Cow - painting by child artist Sanjay Nathubhai Patel
18. 14 Nov. 1986 50 "	Mountaineering
19. 14 Nov. 1977 1 Re	Friends - painting by Bhavsar A. Raman lal
20. " 25 paise	Cats painting by Dilipbhai Mody
21. 14 Nov. 1976 25 "	A painting on " The Story of loyal Moongoose" from Panchatantra by ten year old Hansa D. Mehta
22. 14 Nov. 1974 25 "	Cat - painting by Rajesh Bhatia
23. 14 Nov. 1957 90 "	Education
24. 14 Nov. 1982 50 "	Mother and Child - by Deepak Sharma
25. 14 Nov. 1980 35 "	Dancing Girls - by Pampa Paul
26. 14 Nov. 1991 650 "	National Flag and Children
27. 14 Nov. 1987 60 "	Home and child
28. 14 Nov. 1964 15 "	International Children's Book Fair.
29. 14 Nov. 1985 50 "	Computers
30. 14 Nov. 1984 50 "	Two Trees.

Theme 10 :Foreign Personalities

Plate No.11.

1. 15 Apr. 1965 15 paise	Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865 AD. A great American statesman. He earned the gratitude of his countrymen by preserving the Union of the States of America and of millions of Negroes by abolishing slavery.
2. 12 Oct. 1971 20 paise.	Charter Cyrus the Great - 2500th Anniversary. In 550 B.C., Cyrus was crowned " King of Persians". The earliest exponent of Human Rights. Admired and termed by his countrymen as "Father".

3.	02 Oct. 1978	100 paise.	Leo Tolstoy (1828 - 1910 AD). One of the greatest writers of fiction in the world.
4.	22 Apr. 1970	20 paise.	V.I. Lenin (1870 - 1924 AD). Leader of the Great October Socialist Revolution of U.S.S.R., in 1917 AD. He was the Head of the first Soviet Socialist State.
5.	05 Dec. 1991	650 paise.	Mozart (born 1756 AD). the most popular composer of western classical music of the modern age.
6.	30 Jan. 1983	325 paise.	Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945 AD) served as President of United States of America from 1933 to 1945 AD. His many hobbies included stamp collecting and through his serious interest in this avocation, he provided considerable support for it in the United States and throughout the world.
7.	09 Jan. 1993	600 paise.	William Carey (1761 - 1834 AD) is called the Father of Modern Mission. Stayed for 41 years continuously in India doing missionary work. The very first obstacle to his work as a missionary in India was the East India Company which hated Missionaries and was hostile to them.
8.	17 May 1990	200 paise.	Ho Chi Minh (1890 - 1969 AD). The architect of Vietnamese independence.
9.	24 July 1983	200 paise.	Simon Bolivar (1783 - 1830 AD). He took part in more than 200 battles. The Battle of Carabobo set the seal of Venezuel's independence from Spain in 1821 AD. The concept of olove for liberty formed part of Bolivia's rigorous and coherent ideology.
10.	30 Aug. 1989	500 paise.	Mustafa Kamal At-turk (1881- 1938 AD), the founder and first President of the Republic of Turkey.
11.	15 July 1974	1 Re.	Max Mueller (1823 - 1901 AD) An erudite Sanskrit scholar and indologist. A great interpreter of Indian culture and religion to the Western world.
12.	08 May 1963	15 np.	Red Cross Centenary. Red Cross was founded in 1863 AD, to establish an international body for taking care of the sick and wounded in all wars. The idea of Red Cross was conceived by Henri Durant.
13.	15 Mar. 1982	285 paise.	Picasso (1881 - 1973 AD). A literary genius and Russian revolutionary. He excelled as a pioneer not only in painting, but also in sculpture, graphics, ceramics and in designing the stage decor.
14.	16 Dec. 1970	20 paise.	Beethoven (1770 - 1827 AD). The great musician and composer of the Western Classical Music.
15.	16 Apr. 1978	25 paise.	Charlie Chaplin (1889 - 1977 AD), the world famous actor and director.
16.	28 June 1975	50 paise.	Michelangelo (Quadruplet) (1475 - 1504 AD) the great Italian sculptor, painter, architect, engineer and poet. He was one of the greatest artists of all times. His masterpieces in painting and sculpture inspired by theology and philosophy and expressions through the medium of human body.
17.	31 July 1973	20 paise.	A.O. Hume (1829 - 1912 AD), an Englishman and an administrator with a deep insight and understanding of the

			problems of rural India. He with other like-minded people founded the Indian National Congress in 1885 AD, which in the years to come became the main forum for waging non-violent struggle for freedom against the British.
18.	04 Apr. 1978	200 paise.	Rubens (1547 - 1640 AD). A diplomat of outstanding ability loved by people who believe in international understanding. Genius of art, scholar, fighter for peace.
19.	28 Mar. 1968	15 paise.	Maxim Gorky (1868 - 1936 AD). His greatness as an author is that he transforms the workaday lives of the common people into literature of highest kind.
20.	25 Jan. 1969	20 paise.	Dr. Martin Luther King (1929 - 1968 AD) the greatest Civil Rights leader of the United States of America. An assassin's bullet put a premature end to his crusading career.
21.	25 Dec. 1978	100 paise.	Schubert (1797 - 1828 AD). One of the greatest composers of Western classical music.
22.	27 June 1980	30 paise.	Helen Keller (1880 - 1960 AD). An American celebrated deaf, blind and mute scholar. Author and campaigner for the handicapped and woman's rights.
23.	27 Dec. 1985	500 paise.	Bach & Handel. George Frederic Handel (1685 - 1759 AD) A German by birth. A musician and a distinguished composer of operas. The effect of his influence on the great musical genius such as Beethoven who followed him was great. Johann Sebastian Bach (1665 - 1750 AD). His influence in the history of Western classical music was amazingly powerful. His was the most subtle and universal force in the development of music particularly of such great masters as Mozarat, Beethoven, Chopin, Mendelssohn, Schubert, Brahms and Wanger.
24.	05 May 1983	100 paise.	Karl Marx (1818 - 1883 AD) A German scholar. He kept close contact with all revolutionary movements including the Paris Commune of 1871 AD, and the Great Indian Revolt of 1857 AD. He along Frederik Engles founded the theory of scientific communism, enunciated the laws of Dialectical and Historical Materialism and discovered the theory of surplus value.
25.	28 Aug. 1980	280 paise.	Earl Mountbatten (1900 - 1979 AD). Admiral of the Fleet. He was the Viceroy of British India and first Governor General of Free India. Occupies a place of honour among India's friends and well-wishers.

Theme 11 : International Organisations

Plate No.12.

1. 09 Oct. 1973 20 paise. Oipcicpo Interpol. The International Criminal Police Organisation (ICPO) generally known as INTERPOL is a successor to the International Criminal Police Commission which was founded in 1923 AD at Vienna, Austria. It has its headquarters at Paris. The ICPO continues to render invaluable service to humanity in its fight against international crimes and criminals and in the field of international co-operation.

2. 03 Dec. 1962 15 np. XIX International Congress of Ophthalmology was held in New Delhi in 1962 AD It was inaugurated in Brussels in 1857 AD.
3. 29 Sep. 1991 650 paise. 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The Commonwealth is a multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-cultural and multi-religious association of sovereign nations encompassing within its fold almost a quarter of the world's population spread across all the continents. Despite diversities, the commonwealth remains a well-knit international organisation deriving strength from its belief that international cooperation is essential to remove causes of war, promote tolerance, combat injustice and secure development among the peoples of the world. For India, an independent sovereign democratic republic, the decision to continue with its membership of the Commonwealth was strictly in conformity with its age old vision of a global society - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" Commonwealth Parliamentary Association is an Association of the Parliaments and Provincial Legislatures of the Commonwealth countries which cutting across social, religious, cultural and linguistic diversities are united by community of interests, commonality of parliamentary institutions, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms and commitment to world peace.
4. 28 Oct. 1957 15 np. International Red Cross Conference. Owing to Henri Durant's ceaseless efforts to create an international body to care for the sick and wounded the organisation came into being in 1863 AD.
5. 04 Jan. 1964 15 np. XXVI International Congress of Orientalists met at New Delhi in 1964 AD. The first session of the Congress was held in Paris in the year 1873 AD. The participants in the Congress include, apart from Orientalists in the technical sense, historians, philosophers, philologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, economists, students of comparative religion and art and, indeed, representatives of every branch of the humanities and social sciences. The scope and functions of the Congress may be summed up in the following words "*... to set forth and discuss the results of researches in the field of Oriental antiquities, to reveal to the world the great and unique cultures of ancient Asia and Africa, to open for mankind the priceless historical relics of the peoples of the East, and to make a proper assessment of their contribution to world civilisation...*" The Congress deliberates on the advances made in researches into various aspects of the oriental heritage of mankind. The Congress has been divided into ten principal sections ranging from Egyptology and Indology to Islamic and African studies. The motif adopted in the stamps is the bronze figure of "Dipa-Lakshmi" which signifies the spirit of illumination through study and investigation.
6. 21 Jan. 1970 20 paise. XII Plenary Assembly of C.C.I.R . The International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) was established in 1927 AD, as one of the permanent organs of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which investigates and advises the ITU on technical and operational matters connected with radio, including new problems of space communication. The stamp depicts symbolically inter-linking of the world community through radio and telecommunications.
7. 09 Nov. 1964 15 paise. International Organisation for Standardisation. It aims at developing uniform standards all over the world to facilitate the international exchange of goods and service.
8. 30 June 1972 20 paise. International Union of Railways also known as UIC was founded in 1922 AD, aims at standardising and improving the functioning of Railways with special regard to international traffic.
9. 15 Dec. 1968 20 paise. 21st International Geographical Congress otherwise known as IGU was founded in 1871 AD. Scientific commissions set up by the IGU deals with

subjects highly specialised branches of science such as Applied Geography, World Population and Medical Geography, Teaching of Geography and Quantitative Methods, National Atlas, Interpretation of Aerial Photography, Economic Regionalisation and World land use and Agricultural Typology all of which are of considerable interest and importance to the progress of mankind.

10. 08 Feb. 1965 15 paise. International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) was established in 1919 AD, with the aim of promoting private enterprise throughout the world. The organisation of the United Nations Economic and Social Council such as GATT (General Agreement Tariffs and Trade), OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), the World Bank, the IMF (International Monetary Fund), the Customs Cooperation Council, etc., have close working relationship with the I.C.C.
11. 08 Dec. 1985 100 paise. South Asian Regional Cooperation or SAARC. The seven countries of South Asia namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Srilanka launched the SARC in 1983 AD, and adopted a declaration embodying the principles and objectives of such co-operation. The areas of co-operation identified are - Postal Services, Rural Development, Scientific and Technological cooperation, Agriculture, Health and Population activities, Meteorology, Sports, Arts and Culture, Telecommunications and Transport.
12. 13 Dec. 1977 200 paise. International Statistical Institute. The stamps depicts population graph and statistical chart.
13. 08 Dec. 1985 300 paise. South Asian Regional Cooperation
14. 20 June 1975 25 paise. YWCA or Young Women Christian Association of India was established at Bombay in 1875 AD, and its membership and services are open to all women.
15. 20 Nov. 1984 100 paise. 12th World Mining Congress. Started in 1957 AD, aims at promoting and supporting scientific and technical co-operation for national and international progress in the fields of mining of solid minerals and the development of natural mineral resources; and obtaining a worldwide exchange of information with respect to the development of mining science, technology, economics, health and safety aspects of mining operation and environmental protection. The World Mining Congress itself has consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. In its statutes, the Congress covers all solid minerals i.e. metals, non-metallics and solid energy minerals.
16. 20 Feb. 1984 100 paise. XII International Leprosy Congress. Armauer Hansen, a Norwegian Leprologist was the physician who identified the leprosy bacilli. The International Leprosy Association is an association of the leprologists throughout the world and aims at eradication of leprosy.
17. 01 Mar. 1992 200 paise. International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering (IABSE) - was founded in 1929 AD, to promote international co-operation and exchange of technical and scientific knowledge in the field of structural engineering.
18. 15 June 1959 15 np. International Labour Organisation has its headquarters at Geneva. The International Labour Organisation was ushered into existence along with the League of Nations and charged with the responsibility of organising international collaboration for the study of labour problems and for the adoption of international standards of workers' protection. The ILO was established in 1919 AD to promote social justice and improve working and living conditions throughout the world.
19. 24 Nov. 1969 20 paise. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) aims to promote conservation of all natural resources of the earth namely the plants, animals, air, water and soils.

20. 09 Nov. 1967 15 paise. Indo-European Telegraph Line was established in 1867 AD.
21. 28 July 1975 25 paise. International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage is a non-governmental organisation sponsored by Government of India set up in 1950 AD, to promote the development and application of the science and techniques of irrigation, drainage, flood control and river training.
22. 04 Dec. 1979 100 paise. XXXIII International Atomic Energy Conference (IAEA).
23. 14 Dec. 1964 15 paise. International Geographical Congress was established in 1875 AD, for the purpose of advancement of investigation relating to the study of the Earth.

24. 21 Oct. 1989 650 paise. 18th International Epilepsy Congress. The International Epilepsy Association was formed in 1971 AD. Epilepsy is not a mental illness, but is due to episodic uncontrol electrical discharges from the brain. XIV World Congress on Neurology is being held every year since 1931 AD. Neurology is a branch of medicine dealing with diseases of the brain.
25. 02 May 1990 200 paise. Asian Development Bank established in 1966 AD has its headquarters at Manila, Philippines.
26. 19 Nov. 1985 100 paise. XIX General Assembly International Astronomical Union, New Delhi.
27. 17 May 1965 15 paise. International Telecommunication Union or ITU is the oldest international organisation founded in 1865 AD. The main objectives of the I.T.U. are to promote telecommunication development through international cooperation, ensure rational use of telecommunications, enlarge technical facilities, improve efficiency, formulate telegraph, telephone and radio regulations to ensure uniformity in procedure and tariff, disseminate information and to act as a body responsible for implementing the terms of the International Conventions.
28. 01 Apr. 1977 200 paise. Asian Oceanic Postal Union was established in 1962 AD, with headquarters and central office in Manila in Philippines. The membership of the union is open to the countries in the Asian Oceanic Region.
29. 20 Dec. 1975 25 paise. Theosophical Society was founded in 1875 AD, with membership open to all religions of the world. It aims to promote universal brotherhood through comparative study of religion, philosophy and science.
30. 21 Feb. 1992 100 paise. YMCA or Young Men Christian Association was started in London in 1884 AD by Sir George Williams. The services are rendered to all young people irrespective of their religious affiliations. It has contributed much to the development of a Secular outlook among Indian Youth.

Theme 12 : United Nations Themes

Plate No. 13.

1. 05 Mar. 1979 25 paise International Year of Child - Child and Gandhi.
2. 08 Apr. 1981 100 paise. Heinrich Von Stephen was the Chairman of the Commission set up by the Congress of the representatives of 22 states of both hemispheres in 1874 AD to examine the draft conventions of the General Postal Union (later known as Universal Postal Union).
3. 10 Oct. 1949 2 As. Universal Postal Union
4. 24 Dec. 1985 200 paise. International Year of Youth
5. 07 Apr. 1962 15 paise. The World United Against Malaria

6. 05 Mar. 1979	100 paise.	International Year of Child - Happy Child.
7. 11 Dec. 1986	50 paise.	40th Anniversary of UNICEF (United
8. "	500 paise.	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund now United Nations Children Fund, but still known as UNICEF.
9. 05 June 1977	200 paise.	World Environment Day.
10. 26 June 1970	20 paise.	U.N. XXV Anniversary - The United Nations was founded in 1945 AD to meet a challenge : that of saving coming generations from the scourge of war : of reaffirming our faith in fundamental human rights for all without regard to race or colour : of ensuring justice and respect for international law and of promoting social progress and better standards of life for all.
11. 03 Oct. 1974	25 paise.	Universal Postal Union Miniature Sheet
12. 14 Aug. 1974	25 paise.	World Population Year
13. 24 Oct. 1975	200 paise.	40th Anniversary of United Nations
14. 21 Mar. 1963	15 np.	Freedom from Hunger - Under the auspices of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, a world-wide Freedom-From-Hunger Campaign was launched on the 1st July, 1960 AD to focus public attention upon the continuing problem of hunger, and to mobilize national and international effort towards its solution. The campaign is of special interest to India where there is a race between population and food supply. Falling in line with the general plan of the Campaign, as approved by the F.A.O., the Government of India have set up a National Campaign Committee and have also undertaken studies with the object of increasing agricultural and other related matters to solve the problem of hunger and malnutrition.
15. 18 July 1983	100 paise.	World Communication Year
16. 04 Nov. 1971	20 paise.	UNESCO - 25th Anniversary. UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation was created in 1946 AD. The three main functions of the UNESCO are (i) International intellectual co-operation; (ii) assistance to Member states; and (iii) promotion of peace and human rights and mutual understanding among peoples.
17. 03 Oct. 1974	1 Re.	Universal Postal Union Miniature Sheet
18. 11 Dec. 1960	15 np.	UNICEF
19. 26 June 1965	15 paise.	International Cooperation Year
20. 01 Feb. 1968	15 paise.	UN Conference on TRADE and Development
21. 20 Apr. 1981	100 paise.	International Year for Disabled person
22. 08 Apr. 1990	100 paise.	International Literacy Year
23. 05 Oct. 1987	500 paise.	International Year of Shelter for the Homeless
24. 10 Dec. 1963	15 np.	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
25. 24 Oct. 1986	500 paise.	International Year of Peace 1986
26. 20 May 1970	20 paise.	New UPU Headquarters
27. 14 Oct. 1969	20 paise.	IMCO (Inter Governmental Maritime Consultative Organisation - 10th Anniversary.
28. 16 Feb. 1975	25 paise.	International Women's Year

29. 24 Oct. 1954	2 As.	United Nations Day.
30. 21 Jan. 1980	100 paise.	UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organisation) - 3rd General Conference.

Theme 13 : International Events

Plate No. 14.

1. 10 Apr. 1973	20 paise.	Jai Bangla. Bangladesh proclaimed Independence on 26th March 1971 AD. The map depicts the Flag and Map of Bangladesh and its national flower, the 'Shapla'.
2. 26 Aug. 1975	25 paise.	Namibia Day. The stamp highlights the problem created by the Union of South Africa's refusal to vacate illegal occupation of Namibia.
3. 29 May 1976	280 paise.	American Revolution Bicentennial. On July 04, 1776 AD, the American colonies declared the break with Britain. The postage stamps depicts the famous painting "Spirit of 1776" by Archibald M. Willard symbolising the spirit of America's War of Independence.
4. 29 Nov. 1981	100 paise.	Solidarity with the Palestinian People. In supporting the Palestinian struggle, India stands tied to the principles and ideas which have been the vital part of Indian own ethos.
5. 30 Dec. 1977	100 paise.	Great October Socialist Revolution. The success of the October Revolution in Russia was major mile-stone in the history of mankind. Its message of equality between man and man, irrespective of race, creed or colour has served as a source of inspiration to millions of people throughout the world.
6. 10 June 1975	25 paise.	World Hindi Convention. The stamp depicts the photograph of a 12th century image of Saraswati who is considered as the presiding deity for language and learning.
7. 07 Mar. 1983	100 paise.	Seventh Non-Aligned Summit (Logo). The first summit was held in Belgrade during 1961 AD. Rooted in the five principles of peaceful co-existence, 'Panchsheel,' the movement stands for dialogue and search for mutually acceptable solutions as the alternative to confrontation and search for domination.
8. 02 Oct. 1974	25 paise.	XIX International Dairy Congress
9. 07 Mar. 1983	200 paise.	Seventh Non-Aligned Summit. Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and the founder of Non-Aligned Movement.
10. 12 Apr. 1975	25 paise.	World Telugu Conference. Telugu is the most widely spoken language in India after its National language Hindi. In the background, the stamps contains the eulogy that in sweetness Telugu excels even such sweet things as "sugar, jack fruit and pure honey." It is considered as Italian of the East.
11. 23 Nov. 1983	200 paise.	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting New Delhi -

	1983. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of independent nations. Its meetings have worked to advance co-operative programmes to fight poverty, combat racism and generate world peace.
12. 03 June 1968 15 paise	II International Conference - Seminar on Tamil Studies. Tamil is an ancient classical language spoken in South India which has had an unbroken and massive literary record covering a period of over 2000 years.
13. 25 June 1987 650 paise.	AFRICA Fund stands for Action Resisting Invasion Colonialism and Apartheid Fund.
14. 23 Nov. 1983 100 paise.	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting New Delhi - 1983.
15. 06 Oct. 1977 200 paise.	International Homeopathic Congress.
16. 10 Nov. 1979 30 paise.	International Children's Book Fair.
17. 16 Aug. 1990 100 paise and 650 paise.	Indo-Soviet Issue. In its industrial modernisation, India received invaluable understanding and co-operation from the Soviet Union. The Indian people regard the Soviet people as reliable friends. Indo-Soviet friendship is aimed to work for a large universal cause - a common cause for peace.
18. 29 Feb. 1980 30 paise.	World Book Fair - held in New Delhi every year projects the development of Indian publishers' industry.
19. 30 Dec. 1959 15 np.	First World Agriculture Fair.
20. 19 Nov. 1969 20 paise.	Man on the Moon. On July 20, 1969 AD, Neil Armstrong took man's first step on the moon's surface.
21. 23 Oct. 1977 200 paise.	International Congress of Paediatrics. The main objective of the International Paediatric Association is to promote co-operation among paediatricians of all countries and to encourage research and disseminate scientific knowledge in all fields relating to the cause and health of children everywhere.
22. 10 Jan. 1977 200 paise.	World Conference on Earthquake Engineering.
23. 10 Jan. 1987 650 paise.	First Indian Sailing Expedition Around the World 1985-87. The team comprised of ten officers of the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army covered a distance of approximately 50,000 kms in 1 1/2 years.
24. 07 Apr. 1976 25 paise.	World Health Day. Laying importance in 1976 AD, on the need of preventive measures against blindness.
25. 30 Oct. 1969 20 paise.	57th Interparliamentary conference. The Union looks after the solutions for all problems of parliamentary origin in all countries. Its origin dates back to 1889 AD.
26. 28 Oct. 1975 200 paise.	21st Commonwealth Parliament Conference.
27. 30 Dec. 1973 20 paise.	50th Anniversary of USSR. The figure depicts the Flag of USSR and the Kremlin Tower.

Theme 14 : Armed Forces

Plate No. 15.

1. 15 Aug. 1963 15 np.	They Defend.

2. 01 Mar. 1973 20 paise. Army Postal Service Corps - First Anniversary. The Army Postal Service extends the facilities of the Indian Post Office to field formations of the Army, Air Force and para-military forces wherever they may be serving, in India or overseas. Although FPOs are designed as mobile units, functioning in trucks or tents, they provide almost all postal facilities available to the public, at civil post offices. The Army Postal Service also implements postal concessions granted to the soldiers. Although an integral part of the Army, the Army Postal Service functions as a part of the P&T system for technical and financial purposes, and is for all practical purposes a member of the P&T family. 56 APO and 99 APO are the names of the two Base Post Offices which are responsible for receiving, sorting and despatching mail addressed to the troops or sent by them. APS was constituted into a permanent Corps of the Army on 1 March 1972. It has chosen 'Raj Hans' (Swan), a mythical carrier of messages of love, as its symbol and 'Mel Milap' (Amity and Concord) as its motto. These are depicted in the APS emblem approved by the President which is the motif of the commemorative stamp.
3. 26 Jan. 1966 15 paise Jai Jawan.
4. 15 Aug. 1976 25 paise. Param Vir Chakra. Throughout the ages, appreciative monarchs and grateful governments have recognised the exceptional exploits of their warriors by grants of promotion, titles, property, pensions and other tokens of esteem. In the modern world these tokens take the form of highly coveted, richly prized and sparingly given gallantry medals such as "Victoria Cross" of England, "Medal of Honor" of U.S.A, "Order of Lenin" of U.S.S.R and "Param Vir Chakra" of India. When India became independent in 1947 AD, the armed forces were called upon to safeguards its frontiers against the Pakistani invaders in Jammu and Kashmir. The jawans took up the challenge and performed remarkable deeds of valour, courage, endurance and self-sacrifices in repelling and defeating the Pakistanis. In recognition of the supreme sacrifices made by the armed forces personnel, the Government of India instituted new gallantry awards for them, the highest of which is Param Vir Chakra. This is given by the President of India personally for the most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice in the presence of the enemy whether on land, at sea or in the air. Late Major Som Nath Sharma of the Kumaon Regiment was the first to win this decoration for supreme bravery while leading his men against the Pakistanis near Badgam in Kashmir in November,1947 AD.
5. 15 Aug. 1963 1 Re. They Defend.
6. 09 Jan. 1984 100 paise. Deccan Horse. The Deccan Horse came into being as "Asif Jah's Irregular Cavalry" in 1790 AD. It was raised under the Colours of the Nizam of Hydrabad in Berar under terms of the subsidiary alliance with the East India Company. Immediately after Independence, one squadron of the regiment fought in the Jammu and Kashmir operations (1948-49) and was largely instrumental in the recapture of Chhamb. During the 1965 AD Indo-Pak conflict, the regiment saw fierce action in the Khem Karan Sector. It was responsible for creating the 'Patton Graveyard'. The regiment won 24 decorations and battle honours "Asal Uttar" and "Punjab 1965". The battle fought by the regiment broke the back of an enemy armoured and infantry division. The then Commandant of the Regiment, Lt.Col.(Now Gen) A.S.Vaidya, was awarded the "Maha Vir Chakra" for leading the regiment gallantry. In the Indo-Pak conflict of 1971 AD, the Deccan Horse was once again at the fore-front of the hottest fight in Chhamb. Six Gallantry awards were won. This gallant battle by the Regiment blunted and stalled the largest offensive ever mounted by Pakistan since Independence.
7. 20 Feb. 1979 25 paise. Punjab Regiment. The Punjab Regiment of today has seen many

changes of organisation, class composition and nomenclature during its long history. Its senior Battalions were raised between 1761 AD and 1776 AD. From Coast Sepoys they became Carnatic Battalions, Madras Battalions, Madras Native Infantry, Madras Infantry, Punjabis, 2nd Punjab Regiment and finally Punjab Regiment. Originally manned by South Indian Jawans the Regiment is now composed of 50% Sikhs and 50% Dogras. Thus in two centuries the Regiment has covered recruiting grounds ranging from Kanyakumari to Himachal. During 186 years of its existence before Independence the Regiment fought valiantly in India and overseas and won many battle honours and numerous gallantry awards including a Victoria Cross. Of its memorable exploits, the part played by the 15th Battalion (1st Patiala) in the capture of Zojila in October 1948 AD is outstanding. For this single operation the Battalion was awarded 6 Mahavir Chakras and 13 Vir Chakras,. The Regiment has distinguished itself during the Police Action, the Chinese Aggression of 1962 AD, and the Indo-Pak conflicts of 1965 AD and 1971 AD. As may be expected from such a group of physically fit and agile soldiers, the Regiment has an excellent record in the field of sports, particularly in Hockey and athletics. The Regiment is proud of its Major Dhyan Chand, the Hockey Wizard, and such athletics aces as Subedar Dhanna Singh, Subedar Harnek Singh, Naib Subedar Sardara Singh and Capt. J S Sandhu.

8. 10 Dec. 1982 50 paise. Indian Military Academy. The Indian Military Academy was inaugurated on 10 December 1932 AD. Its founding father is Field Marshal Sir Philip Chetwode. The young officers who, with their valiant 'Jawans', guard our Nation's frontiers are trained here. The training of Gentlemen Cadets is tough and fills the whole day with meaningful activity. Physical training, Drill, Weapon training, Riding, Study of Tactics and Strategy, Post-graduate studies in the Humanities and Sciences- these along with games and sports, combine to provide its Gentlemen Cadets with healthy bodies and healthy soldierly minds.
9. 04 Mar. 1976 25 paise. 16 Light Cavalry. 16th Light Cavalry is the senior most separate and continuous entity from 1776 AD when it was serving the Nawab of Arcot as his 3rd Regiment of cavalry. It fought so well in the Carnatic Wars of the Seventeen-eighties that the East India Company got it permanently transferred to its own Army. During two hundred years of distinguished service, the Regiment has seen many changes of organisations and designations. Manned originally by men from the Madras Presidency, its composition wa changed in 1903 AD to Rajputs, Jats and Deccani Mohammadans. Since independence the Regiment has regained its original South Indian composition. The Regiment assumed its present designation in 1922 AD. In 1940 AD, the Regiment gave up its horses and sabres to fight with guns and cannons in tanks and armoured cars. In the Second World War, the Regiment showed its prowess in mechanised warfare by spearheading the reconquest of Burma from the Japanese. During the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 AD and 1971 AD, the Regiment fought in the van of the Indian advance into Pakistan in the Pasrur and Shakargarh Sectors. The battle honour of 'Phillora' is now inscribed on its standards. The Regiment was the first to be selected for Indianisation and among its first Indian officers are such distinguished leaders of the post-independence Indian Army as General J.N.Chaudhuri, Lieutenant General M.S. Wadalia and and Lieutenant General S.D.Verma.
10. 25 Nov. 1978 25 paise. Skinner's Horse. James Skinner, the founder of this family and the crack cavalry regiment that bears his name was the son of a Scottish father and a Muslim Rajputni mother. Being half-Indian, young Skinner was not permitted to join either the British or the Indian wings of the East India Company's army. He, therefore, offered his

sword to the Marattas and in 1795 AD joined the Regular Army of Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia. for the next eight years, Skinner learnt the soldier's trade and won his spurs in battle after battle and was rewarded with the command of three battalions at the age of 22. When the British and the Marhattas fought for the control of Delhi and Doab in 1803 AD Skinner was dismissed from Scindia's service and reluctantly sought British protection. He ultimately agreed to raise and lead a force of horsemen from among his old comrades after obtaining a promise that they would not be employed against the Scindias. During the first 136 years that the Skinner's fought on horses, they became famous for their speed and boldness, mastery of personal weapons, be they swords, lances, muskets or carbines and a self-assurance enshrined in their Persian motto "Himmat-i-Mardan, Madad-e-Khuda" (God helps those who help themselves). Time and again they proved in valuable as advance guards, protectors and escorts of convoys and masters in pursuit. When they shed their horses in favour of armoured cars and light tanks; they maintained their reputation as fast, furious and fearless warriors. From 1803 AD to the present day the Skinner's Horse have distinguished themselves in campaigns all over Asia, India, Afghanistan and China and on the battle field of the First and Second World Wars. Since Independence, the Regiment has earned fresh laurels in whatever role has been allotted to it as a Recce Regiment of the Armoured Division in Hyderabad Police Action of 1948 AD, in war-readiness on the Punjab border, on internal security duties in Uttar Pradesh and as the divisional tank regiment in the capture of Dograi in the Indo-Pak war in 1965 AD. In 1966 AD the Regiment changed over to new medium tanks and became part of an armoured brigade.

11. 08 Apr. 1975 25 paise. Army Ordnance Corps. The Corps had its origin in 1775 AD when the Board of Ordnance was planned and recommended by the then Commander-in-Chief,Lt.General Sir John Clavering. It was re-organized in 1884 AD. In 1922 AD, the ordnance and clothing services under the Director of Equipment and Ordnance Stores were styled as Indian Army Ordnance Corps (IAOC). The services rendered by the Corps during the Second World War marked another glorious chapter in its history. In December 1970 AD, the Corps had the privilege of being presented its colours by the Vice-President of India. The Army Ordnance corps is one of the most complex organizations in the Indian Army today. The diversity of range of stores and equipment provided by the Corps in terms of the number of items, their size, volume and value remains unequalled by even the largest and best equipped inventory holder in the country. The Corps provides every conceivable requirement of the soldier and para-military forces with the exception of only rations, fuel, medical supplies and certain specialized engineering equipment.
12. 04 Dec. 1981 35 paise. Indian Navy. India's seafaring traditions have roots in its ancient civilisation. In the more recent times, the European Maritime powers were given a stiff battle by the Navy as it existed then under the great Admiral Kanhoji Angre. During the first and second world wars, the ships of the Navy served with distinction in different oceans of the world. The sinking of a heavily armed Japanese ship by HMIS Bengal in the Indian Ocean in 1942 A.D. was a daring feat. The Indian Navy is exists today, is a manifestation of our ancient maritime heritage and aspirations. The fleets are composed of some of the most modern ships with sophisticated weaponry. It is a hard hitting force fully capable of annihilating threats from the air, on the surface and below the surface of the seas. The complete supremacy of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal during 1971 AD operations was a unique achievement. The seas around have always been important to India for its security and prosperity. India occupies a strategic

position in the Indian Ocean. The discovery of oil off India's coast are very promising. Our exclusive economic zone abounds in sea food and may also have the much needed minerals. The seas hold the key for improving the quality of life of Indian people in the future. The role of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the national interests and economic growth will thus become all the more important and have a direct bearing on India's strength and economic well-being of its people.

13. 15 Jan. 1985 100 paise. Indian Air Force. The Indian Air Force came into being with the promulgation of the IAF Act 1932 on 8th October 1932 A.D. Its first formal flight was formed at Karachi on 1st April 1933 AD with four Westland WAPITI aircraft, six officers and 19 Hawai Sepoys. By 1938 A.D. the single flight and swelled into three flights and formed No.1 Sqn. The year 1939 AD saw the beginning of World War II. Five coastal Defence Flights were raised at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi and Cochin to guard 3000 miles of India's coast line. Soon after the independence the IAF had to take active part in Kashmir operation in which it rendered valuable support to the Army by flying in troops and attacking concentration of the raiders. With the acquisition of Vampires in 1948 AD the IAF became first Asian Air Force to fly jets. The Indian Air Force became completely to its own in 1954 AD when Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief and the Chief of the Air Staff. During the Chinese aggression in 1962 AD, Indian Air Force rendered a valuable transport and logistic support to our forward posts of both the Army and the civil administration. The 1965 AD conflict with Pakistan added another chapter to the glorious record of IAF. The crucial battle for air supremacy was won and the Indian Air Force enjoyed the complete control of the sky. Again during Indo-Pak conflict 1971 AD, IAF gained air supremacy within 43 hours in the Eastern Sector. In the Western Sector, it was a story of destroying PAF aircraft, damaging ports, oil installations, radar installations, tanks, opponents's lines of supply and providing and effective umbrella to the Army advance.
14. 08 Oct. 1982 100 paise. Regiment of Artillery. "Ultima Ratio Regum" - the last argument of kings ! This was how cannons were described in the medieval period. Ever since the concept of causing destruction to the enemy's war machine at a distance, evolved in warfare, Artillery has been a battle winning arm. Babur is credited with being the first one to use Artillery in India in the first battle of Panipat in 1526 AD. Throughout the Mughal period and later during the reign of the Marathas, Tipu Sultan, the Sikhs under Maharaja Ranjit Singh and the British East India Company, Artillery was the leading arm and "Goandaz" battalions occupied the pride of place on the battle field. Since then the guns have always been the "Colours" of the Regiment of Artillery, unlike the other arms who have Guidons. On 15 January 1935 AD, 'A' Field Brigade, comprising four batteries of horse drawn guns, was raised at Bangalore. Inspite of its long history, the Relgiment of Artillery has opted to adopt this as its birthday as 'A' Field Brigade was the first wholly Indian Artillery Unit. The Gunners have won numerous gallantry awards.
15. 09 Nov. 1981 35 paise. Mahar Regiment. The Mahars, the hardly inhabitants of Western and Central India have a long and glorious martial tradition. The distinguished service rendered by them was recognised and rewarded by the formation of the Mahar Regiment during World War II. The First Battalion of the Mahar Regiment was raised on 1 October, 1941 AD, and the 2nd and 3rd followed soon. In October 1946 AD, the Regiment was chosen for conversion as a Medium Machine Gun Regiment. The training Centre of the Regiment was shifted from Arangaon to Saugor on 1 December 1948 AD. The expansion of the Regiment started in 1956 AD with the amalgamation of the Ist, 2nd and 3rd Battalions of the Border Scouts. From the same time, the recruitment to the

Mahar Regiment has been opened to all classes of the country. The Regiment has grown from strength to strength and is, today, one of the largest in the Indian Army. In 1963 AD, the Battalions of the Regiment were converted to standard Infantry Battalions. The units of the Regiment participated in World War II in Burma, Persia and Iraq (PAI Force). After independence, the units of the Regiment have participated in all our wars with enviable valour and distinction. Detachments of the Regiment acquitted themselves admirable in peace-keeping operations in Korea and Congo. Units of the Regiment also did creditable work in Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram in duties in aid of civil power. The Regiment was awarded battle honours for the battles of Asal Uttar, Kalidhar, Jauri-an-Kalit and Tilakpur Muhadipur in the 1965 AD conflict against Pakistan. During the 1971 AD conflict with Pakistan, several Battalions of the Regiment took part in action in different theatres with great distinction. The battles of Parbat Ali, Sehkra, Thanpir, Harar Kalan and Kaiyan in Western Sector and Shamsher Nagar, Maulvi Bazar, Sylhet and Chittagong in Eastern Sector deserve special mention. The officers and men of the Regiment won many gallantry awards.

16. 16 Feb. 1986 200 paise. INS Vikrant - In 1961 A.D., the Navy acquired wings when the air craft career "Vikarant" joined the fleet.
17. 16 Feb. 1983 50 paise. Jat Regiment. The Jat Regiment is one of the oldest Regiment of the Indian Army. Its first Battalion was raised in 1903 AD at FATEHGARH as 1/22 Bengal Native Infantry, later redesignated as 1/9 Jat Regiment. The Battalion was bestowed the title "Light Infantry" in recognition of its epic march from Kabul to Kandahar in 1842 AD. During the World War I, the First Battalion served in France, Mesopotamia and North West Frontier. During World War II it served in Burma and Malaya. The Second was overrun by the Japanese during the fall of Singapore in 1942 AD. It was later reconstituted in 1946 AD. The Third Battalion fought the famous "Battle of Cauldron" against the German Forces under Field Marshal Rommel. It saw action at Imphal in 1943 AD and Jamadar Abdul Hafiz was posthumously awarded the George Cross. The 5th, 6th and the Machinegun Battalions did commendable work during World War II in Burma. L/NK Islamuddin of 7 Jat Regiment was awarded the George Cross at Meiktila. Since Independence the Regiment has been awarded 3 PVSMs, 1 AVSM, 7 MVCs, 4 KC, 32 Vir Chakras, 9 SCs and 29 Sena Medals Besides numerous COAS's Commendation Cards.
18. 08 Feb. 1993 60 paise. 3rd Cavalry.
19. 03 June 1987 100 paise. 7 Mechanised Battalion (1 Dogra). The 7th Battalion the Mechanised Infantry Regiment was raised as 37 DOGRA by Lt.Col. V.Rivas on 30th May, 1887 AD at Sialkot. The Battalion was redesignated as the 1st Battalion (Prince of Wales Own), the 17th Dogra Regiment in 1992 AD.
20. 17 Oct. 1986 300 paise. 1 Para (Commando). The First Battalion the Parachute Regiment the eldest Battalion of our Army, was raised as 8th Battalion of Coast Sepoys by Capt. Cooke in Trinchinopoly in 1761 AD. The Battalion's participation in World War II was a saga of memorable battles and sacrifices through a bloody pageant of historic names in Indian Military history. The indomitable spirit of the Battalion showed best during the battle for the Indice Bridgehead in Italy. At the onset of partition in 1947 AD, the Muslim companies of the Battalion went to Pakistan and the Sikh and Dogra companies from 1st Frontier Force Rifles replaced them. These personnel specialise in various skills such as underwater diving, sky diving, rock climbing, handling explosives and survival in tropical jungles. There is a team of martial arts pros who temper every person in unarmed combat.

21. 10 May 1987 100 paise. The Garhwal Rifles and the Scouts. In May, 1887 AD, the 1st Battalion of the Regiment was raised at Almora in Kumaon by Lt.Col. EP Mainwaring as 2nd Battalion the 3rd (The Kumaon) Kurkha Regiment. The first world war was a turning point in the history of the regiment. The 1st and 2nd Battalions which saw active service in France soon carved for themselves many a niche in the temple of fame. While NK Darwan Singh Negi won the second Victoria Cross ever awarded to an Indian soldier, Rfn. Gobar Singh Negi of the second Battalion soon emulated the former by winning the Victoria Cross in the bloody battle of Nevue Chapelle. Before the carnage of the first world war ended, the Regiment had won 2 Victoria Crosses(VC), 6 Distinguished Service Orders (DSO), 25 Military Crosses (MC), 14 Indian Orders of Merit (IOM) and 21 Indian Distinguished Service Medals (IDSM) apart from such rare foreign awards as Legion D'Honneur and French Croix D'Guerre. The 3rd and 4th Battalions were raised in 1916 AD and 1918 AD respectively. The 4th Battalion added one more Victoria (NWFP). On 2nd Feb, 1921 AD, the entire Regiment was conferred the royal title - a unique honour which it shared with only one other Indian Infantry Group : 5 Royal Gurkha Rifles. In 1923 AD, the Regimental War Memorial was unveiled in Lansdowne. The sacred shrine of the Regimental Deity, Badrinath whose invocation is the essence of the battle cry, the Regimental War Memorial and the Scarlet Lanyard constitute the mystical trinity that arouse alike the officers and men to formidable feats, above and beyond the call of duty. During World War II, five more battalions 4th (Reraised) 5th, 6th, 7th, and 25th (Garrison) battalion were raised. The Regiment saw active service in almost all of the theatres and won 6 DSOs, 25 MCs, 14 IDSMs. A rich tapestry of theatre honours ranging from France to Flanders, Macedonia to Afghanistan, Italy to Abyssinia and Burma to Malaya decorate the Regimental banners. After Independence, a number of additional battalions have been raised. The Regiment has crowned itself with glory in all of the postwar conflicts and counter insurgency operations by winning 1 Ashoka Chakra, 4 MVCs, 9 KCs and 35 VrCs. 3rd Battalion rendered distinguished service as a part of the custodian force in Koria in 1953 AD.
22. 10 Aug. 1992 100 paise. 60 Parachute Field Ambulance. 60 Parachute Field Ambulance was raised as 60 Indian Field Ambulance on 10th August 1942 AD in Secunderabad and saw action in Burma as a part of 2 Indian Air Borne Division. The performance of the Unit in these operations led to its selection for para duties. It was converted to Para Field Ambulance in 1945 AD.
23. 14 Nov. 1991 650 paise. 18 Cavalry. The 8th and 16th Regiments of Bengal Irregular Cavalry were raised in 1842 AD and 1846 AD respectively. Later redesignated as the 6th Bengal Cavalry and 7th Hariana Lancers, they were amalgamated to form the 18 Cavalry in 1922 AD. For its distinguished record, 18 Cavalry has the proud privilege of being awarded 29 battle honours which is the second highest number awarded to any unit of the Indian Army. An impressive number of personnel of the Regiment have been decorated for gallantry and sacrifice, principal amongst which are 3 Victoria Crosses, 46 Indian Distinguished Service Medals, 24 Indian Orders of Merit and 2 Vir Chakras. Proud of its glorious history and tradition, the Regiment retains the old Indian Cavalry spirit.
24. 30 Nov. 1990 500 paise. Border Security Force. On the first day of December, 1965 AD the BSF came into existence as a unique Force-a band of committed, trained, quality men to police the borders of our country. This nucleus of fine men has grown steadily into India's premier Para-military Force, dedicated to the defence and security of the Nation. Each unit of this great Force is an "India in Miniature" composed of men from the far

corners of our country and with widely differing cultural and ethnic backgrounds. At all times they hold aloft and remain true to their motto, *"DUTY UNTO DEATH"*. They count no sacrifice too greât for upholding this ideal.

25. 26 Feb. 1980 30 paise. Madras Sappers. The Corps of Engineers, commonly referred to as Army Engineers, comprises three groups, "The Madras Engineer Group" (Bangalore), "The Bengal Engineer Group" (Roorkee), and "The Bombay Engineer Group" (Kirkee). Of these three the "Madras Engineer Group", popularly known as the "Madras Sappers", is the oldest. The Madras Sappers were originally raised as the "Corps of Madras Pioneers" in 1780 AD at Dhowlaishwaram (in the old Madras Presidency and now in Andhra Pradesh) to assist the Infantrymen to overcome the enemy entrenched behind seemingly impassable obstacles and fortifications. The Headquarters of the Madras Pioneers moved from Dhowlaishwaram, for varying spells, to Madras, Bangalore and Coorg till March 1965 AD, when they were permanently located at Bangalore. The history of Madras Sappers is to a great extent the history of Indian Army, as there is hardly any important event to which the Madras Sappers also helped the United Nations in their peace-keeping missions in Indo-China, Gaza and Congo. True to the Engineers' motto "Sarvatra" (which means everywhere), the Madras Sappers have often been called to the aid of civil authorities during natural calamities like earthquake, floods and droughts. The contribution of Madras Sappers in the field of sports has been no less. Their sportsmen have given a splendid account of themselves and have provided representation in the National Teams for Boxing, Hockey, Football, Athletics, Swimming and Sailing. Over the year they have produced more than half a dozen Olympians.
26. 08 Dec. 1992 100 paise. Army Service Corps (1760-1992 AD). The Army Service Corps the largest and oldest logistic service of the Defence Services, and in 1992 AD completed 232 years of long, dediçated and glorious service to the Nation. After its modes inception in 1760 AD as Commissariat Department of East India Company, the three Presidencies of Bengal, Madras and Bombay were amalgamated in 1878 AD and were designated as the Supply and Transport Corps in 1901 AD, renamed as Indian Army Service Corps in 1923 AD. The prefix 'Royal' was used from 1935 AD to 1950 AD where after the corps was allowed to use the National Emblem 'Ashoka' in its badge and thus came to be the Army Service Corps with its motto as 'Service is our Creed'.
27. 07 Jan. 1984 100 paise. 7th Light Cavalry. The 7th Light Cavalry was formed in 1784 AD from selected drafts of three regiments of local cavalry which had been taken over by the East India Company that year at Arcot near Madras. The Regiment during the period up to Independence has served with distinction both in India and overseas. The Regiment saw active service in World War I in Persia, Russia, Transcaspia and Afghanistan. During World War II, the Regiment fought in the siege of Imphal and later forged its way down Burma being the first to reach Rangoon. To honour its gallant actions the Regiment was selected by Lord Louis Mountbatten, SEAC, as the only cavalry regiment to represent the Occupation Forces in Japan from the entire Commonwealth cavalry regiments. During Post-Independence the 7th Light Cavalry has participated in all battles fought in the country
28. 04 Apr. 1993 100 paise. 9 Parachute Field Regiment - Golden Jubilee.
29. 01 Oct. 1990 200 paise. Gorkha Rifles.
30. 18 Oct. 1991 400 paise. 2nd Battalion - 3rd Gorkha Rifles. 2nd Battalion of the Third Gorkha Rifles was raised on 15 Jan 1901 AD at Lansdowne, in the Garhwal Hills by Kaj H.D. Hutchinson (Later Lt.Gen H.D. Hutchinson who was the first Commanding Officer. In 1907 AD, King Edward approved the title of the 3rd Queen's Own Gorkha Rifles but

on personal intervention of the Queen, the designation was changed to a more personalised on i.e. The 3rd Queen Alexandra's own Gurkha Rifles. The battalion sailed from Karachi in Sept 1914 AD as part of Meerut Division for Marseilles to take part in the First World War. It was the year of glory and achievements in which Rifleman Kulbir Thapa was awarded the highest gallantry award of 'Victoria Cross' for his bravery in rescuing a British Officer and some of his comrades from a spot under heavy enemy fire. In November 1915 AD, 2/3 GR sailed from Marseilles and arrived in Alexandria where they spent four years campaigning in the desert of Sinai and in Palestine. In Palestine, in April 1918 AD, Rifleman Karna Bahadur Rana earned the Second 'Victoria Cross' for displaying undaunted courage and loyalty while saving the life of his Company Commander. The battalion finally returned to India in March 1919 AD with 2 Victoria Crosses, 200 various other gallantry awards and 22 Battle Honours. It is one of the highly decorated units of the Army.

31. 21 Feb. 1990 60 paise. The Bombay Sappers. The Bombay Enginner Group, popularly known as the 'Bombay Sappers' is one of the three Groups of the Corps of Engineers. The origin of the Group can be traced back to a Company of Pioneer Lascars raised in Bombay in 1777 AD. Recognising the services rendered by the Group during the first World War, the title Royal was awarded to it in 1921 AD. This title was, however, dropped in 1950 AD. Initially organised at Bombay, the Group has been located at Kirkee since 1837 AD. The Group has participated in operations in diverse area in the deserts of Iraq, Iran and Rajasthan, the snowy desolateness of Kashmir the malaria infested jungles of Burma and Bangladesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Italy in Sri Lanka. Within a year of re-organising, the Sappers and Miners were awarded their first Battle Honour, the Beni Boo Ali, in Arabia in 1821 AD. Since then, the Group has given a excellent account of itself with 34 Battle Honours and 25 Theatre Honours during pre-independence period of 2 Battle Honours (Rajauri and Sylhet) and 5 Theatre Honours after independence. The first gallantry award given to an Indian Soldier and won by the Group at Ghazni in the first. Afghan war, when six Bombay Sappers were awarded the newly established Order of Merit. During the pre-independence period as many as 846 awards were won by the Group, among them 3 Victoria Crosses, 563 and 654 gallant heroes of the Group laid down their lives in the first and second World Wars, respectively. In the post-independence period, the Group is accredited with 1 Param Vir Chakra, 1 Ashok Chakra, 9 PVSMs, 4 Kirti Chakras, 22 AVSMs, 7 Vir Chakras and 10 Shaurya Chakras along with 117 other gallantry awards. The Bombay Sappers on 26 December 1984 AD has made history of carrying out scientific research for the first time round the year, in the merciless Antarctic continent. 'Trishna', the pride of Sappers, sailed around the world in a record of 470 days, with four Bombay Sappers are also enviable in the field of sports, having contributed to the National Teams for the Asian Games and the Olympics.
32. 18 Aug. 1989 100 paise. Military Farms Centenary. Established first at Allahabad in 1889 AD, the Military farms are the oldest Organisation in the country in the field of cattle husbandry and modern dairying and have pioneered the development of cross bred cows. Military Farms have played a vital role in supplying milk, vegetables and fodder to troops.
33. 10 Oct. 1985 200 paise. Border Roads Organisation - Jubilee. On 29 March 1960 AD the new organisation was started with Army Engineers forming a nucleus. BRO, now has a permanent role in defence of the country and speedy economic development of inaccessible border area epitomising national integration.

Theme 15 : Mountains and Mountaineering and Oceans and Oceanic Expeditions

Plate No. 16.

1. 02 Oct. 1953 14 As. Conquest of Everest. Mount Everest with a height of 29,028 ft. is the highest mountain peak in the world. Members of the British Expedition Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norkay conquered it on May 29, 1953 AD The stamp features a view of Mount Everest.
2. 15 Jan. 1978 25 paise. Conquest of Kanchenjunga - Climbing with Ice ladder. Kanchenjunga (28,146 ft.) is the highest mountain in India and third highest in the world. Major Prem Chand and Naik N.D. Sherpa of the Army Expedition scaled the summit of Kanchenjunga on 31st May 1977 AD.
3. 02 Oct. 1953 2 As. Conquest of Everest.
4. 27 August 1983 200 paise. Commonwealth Day.
5. 15 Jan. 1978 100 paise. Conquest of Kanchenjunga - Kanchenjunga Peak.
6. 15 May 1973 20 paise. Indian Mountaineering Foundation took birth in 1958 A.D. The stamp features a view of the Mount Everest.
7. 15 Aug. 1965 15 paise. Indian Mount Everest Expedition. In 1965 A.D., nine members of the Indian Mount Expedition Team climbed the highest peak in successive attempts.
8. 27 Aug. 1983 200 paise. Indian Mountaineering Foundation.
9. 25 June 1991 500 paise. Antarctic Treaty (1961-1991 A.D.).
10. 25 June 1991 600 paise. Antarctic Treaty (1961-1991 A.D.). Antarctica is an island continent almost completely covered by ice. It is larger than Europe and even larger than Indian and China put together. It is covered by an ice cap in which 40% of the world's fresh water is locked up. It is the coldest, driest, windiest, stormiest and the least accessible of all the continents. Its ice cap is an ideal laboratory which preserves secrets hitherto unknown to man. India launched her first expedition to the continent in the year 1981k A.D. and established her first permanently manned station on the ice shelf in 1984 A.D. and named it as Dakshin Gangotri. It was shifted in 1988 A.D. to the rocky area in the Schirmacher hill ranges about 80 kms away. The new station named Maitri is well furnished with living space, laboratory, medical facilities and other amenities. It provides a viable base for carrying out scientific researches in a unique and pristine environment. A decade of Antarctic Science has already created a vibrant body of highly challenging and exciting scientific programmes contributed by scientists from a host of institutions in the country. The defence forces have made their inimitable contribution in supporting the scientific activities by developing the whole gamut of logistic facilities. Antarctica is governed by Antarctic Treaty which came into force on 23rd June 1961 A.D. The Treaty has so far been acceded to by 39 members states of which 26 countries including India have consultative status.
11. 09 Jan. 1983 100 paise. First Indian Antarctic. The Department of Ocean Development was set up on 24th July 1981 AD and within six months of its creation, it organised the first scientific expedition to Antarctica. A 21-member team, drawn from seven different institutions, with Dr. Z.M.Qasim as its leader left for Antarctica on 6th December from Goa and successfully landed on the frozen continent on 9th January

1982. After a stay of 10 days on Antarctica, the expedition returned to Goa. During the stay on Antarctica, as also during the sea cruise, substantial amount of scientific work was done on meteorology, glaciology, geomagnetism, geology, biology, radiowave propagation, pollution studies and also on physical, chemical, biological, geological and geophysical oceanography. A scientific station named "Dakshin Gangotri" was set up. An automatic weather data recording system powered by solar batteries was installed and left behind at Dakshin Gangotri. Antarctica provides a unique and unpolluted environment hitherto untouched by man. It, therefore, gives an ideal situation (datum point) for monitoring pollution elsewhere in the world. Antarctica influences global climate, and more particularly, the climate of southern hemisphere. Its study would, therefore, add considerably to our knowledge of factors influencing the monsoons on which the economy of the country is critically dependent. The ice sheet in Antarctica originated, perhaps, more than 50 million years ago, and has continued since then completely undisturbed. It is at places over 3500 metres thick and cover more than 95% of the continent's land area.It is, therefore, an extremely well-preserved repository of all types of materials fallen on earth such as, the fragments of cosmic bodies, nuclear products of cosmic rays, samples of entrapped air and minerals. A scientific study of this continent could help to decipher the ancient material found in the ice and will enable us to understand the global and cosmic phenomena that have been taking place over the past millennia. Almost 90% of the world's ice is found on Antarctica. Therefore, it could provide a source of fresh water to many areas of world where water is scarce. The lines of forces in the earth's magnetic field bend over the two poles. Hence, Antarctica provides an ideal location for observing interaction of the magnetic field and of charged particles from the sun. The waters around Antarctica are amongst the richest biological provinces of earth. The history of Antarctica itself is a subject of great interest for geologists and geophysicists.

Theme 16 : Postage Stamps containing portrait of Queen Victoria

Plate No. 17.

1.	10 July 1852 1/2 Anna	First postage stamp used in Asia. Issued for local use within the Sind Province (now in Pakistan)
2.	1853 Half Anna	Lithographic stamp with the "Lion and Palm Tree " design which was never used.
3.	1854 "	First adhesive stamp
4.	" One Anna	"
5.	" Four Annas	"
6.	1854 Two Annas	Typographed by Stamp Office
7.	" "	"
8.	Nov. 1855 Half Anna	East India Postage
9.	" One Anna	"
10.	" Two Annas	"
11.	" Four Annas	"
12.	" Eight Annas	"
13.	1860 Eight pies	"
14.	1866-1876 6 Annas	"
15.	" Nine pies	"
16.	" 4 Annas	"

17. " 12 Annas "
18. Half Anna " (Stamps in use in 1862 AD)
19. Nine pies " "
20. One anna " "
21. 1 Anna 6 pies " "
22. Two Annas " "
23. Two Annas " "
24. Three Annas " "
25. Four Annas " "
26. Twelve Annas " "
27. Re. 1
28. 1895 Rs. 3 Portrait of Queen Victoria in Indian costumes
29. " Three pies "
30. " " "
31. " Rs.5 " with over print "Gwalior"

Theme 17 : Postage Stamps containing th portrait of King Edward VII, King George V and King George VI.

Plate No. 18.

(a) Stamps containing the Portrait of King Edward VII issued in 1902 AD : 1. 3 pies 2. Quarter Anna 3. Half Anna 4. One Anna 5. Two Annas 6. Two Annas 6 pies 7. Three Annas 8. Four Annas 9. Six Annas 10. Eight Annas 11. Twelve Annas 12. One Rupee

(b) Stamps containing the Portrait of King George V issued from 1911 AD onwards : 13. 3 pies 14. Half Anna 15 & 16. Nine pies 17. 1 Anna 18. 1 Anna 3 pies 19. One and half anna 20. 2 Annas 21. 2 Annas 6 pies 22. 3 Annas 23. 3 Annas 6 pies 24. 4 Annas 25. 6 Annas 26. 8 Annas 27. 12 Annas 28. 1 Rupee 29. 2 Rupees 30. 5 Rupees 31. 10 Rupees 32. 15 Rupees 33. 25 Rupees

(c) Stamps containing the portrait of King George VI issued from 1937 AD onwards : 34. 1 Rupee 35. 2 Rupees 36. 5 Rupees 37.10 Rupees 38.15 Rupees 39.25 Rupees 40&41. 3 pies 42. 1/2 Anna 43. 9 pies 44. 1 Anna 45. 1 Anna 3 pies 46. One and half anna 47. 2 Annas 48.3 Annas 49. 3 1/2 Annas 50. 4 Annas 51. 6 Annas 52. 8 Annas 53. 12 Annas

Theme 18 : Culture and Traditions

Plate No.19.

1. 17 Dec. 1990 100 paise Greetings
2. 30 Sep. 1991 100 " "
3. 17 Dec. 1990 400 " "
4. 30 Sep. 1991 650 " "

The exchange of illustrated greetings between friends has been recorded from ancient times. The celebration of New year in Egypt was usually marked by exchange of scent bottles and scarfs inscribed "au ab nab" (all good luck). The practice of sending of acknowledgement for the new year with the exchange of goodwill continued in Europe through the early days of Christianity. The modern day Greetings Card crystallised in

1843 AD, when the first X-mas card with Season's Greetings was designed in United Kingdom. Though there are several means of conveying greetings, the Post remains the most popular and predominant mode of transmission. In India greetings are sent on occasions like Deepavali, Pongal, Durga Puja, Baisakhi, Bihu, Christmas, Id and other regional festivals.

5. 01 Oct. 1987 200 paise. "Phoolwalon ki Sair" - the unique festival of communal harmony and national integration dates back to 1812 AD during the days of Akbar Shah II one of the later Mughals. It began with Begum Mumtaz Mahal's presentation of a "Chadar" and a "Pankha" as a token of thanks giving for a prayer fulfilled at the tomb of Hazrat Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki and at the Yogmaya temple.
6. 05 May 1973 50 paise. Indian Miniature painting - "Dance Duet" featuring two Kathak dancers in Mughal style - 17th Century AD.

Indian Dances (figures 7, 10, 18, 20 and 23).

7. 20 Oct. 1975 200 paise. Dances of India - Manipuri, one among the six major dance forms 'Manipuri' is a lyrical dance form from the eastern region of India.
8. 26 Jan. 1950 4 annas. Com and plough. Republic of India was proclaimed on 26th January 1950 AD A sheaf of corn drawn vertically and a plough indicative of the profession of majority of population of India as Agriculturists.
9. 23 Jan. 1978 100 paise. Dal lake, Srinagar. A Tourist couple in 'Shikara' on Dal lake, Kashmir the heaven on earth.
10. 20 Oct. 1975 100 paise. Dances of India - "Kathakali" from Kerala is a classical dance drama.
11. 05 May 1973 20 paise. Indian Miniature painting - 'Radha Kishangarh' a Rajasthani painting with Mughal impact by Nihal chand done in 1778 AD.

Brides of India (figures 12,16, 17 and 21)

12. 30 Dec. 1980 100 paise. Brides of India. Bride a signal of joy is welcomed in India as 'Soubhagyavati' (the fortunate one), the harbinger of auspiciousness into the home. Rajasthani Bride of the desert dwelling Rajputs.

Tribes of India (figures 13, 14, 15 and 19)

13. 30 May 1980 100 paise. Tribes of India - "Dandami Maria". Representing Tribal culture of India . Dandami Maria wearing headgear with refulgent peacock feathers.
14. 30 May 1981 100 paise. Tribes of India - "Bhil," a woman of Bhil tribe wearing colourful dress and silver jewellery. Bhil live in the Western Madhya Pradesh and the adjoining areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
15. 30 May 1981 100 paise. Tribes of India - "Khaimngan Naga" in a ceremonial dress. The Nagas live in the extreme borders of eastern frontier of India.
16. 30 Dec. 1980 100 paise. Brides of India - "Bengali Bride" - with loops of fresh jasmine and rose about her neck and wrists, with gems at her throat and her ear-lobes shielded by disks of finely - wrought gold, hers is the delicate curvilinear style by which the tropical Bengal is known.
17. 30 Dec. 1980 100 paise. Brides of India - "Kashmiri Bride." - The traditionally richly embroidered ornamentation effectively throws her bridal face in to relief and indicates the personality of the bride.

18. 20 Oct. 1975 25 paise. Dances of India - "Bharata Natyam" - essentially a solo dance developed in South India. It is characterised by straight lines, diagonals, triangles which are basic motifs for executing movements, as also patterns of floor choreography.

19. 30 Dec.1980 100 paise. Tribes of India - "Toda" a small pastrol tribe inhabiting the Nilgiris in Tamilnadu.

20. 20 Oct. 1975 150 paise. Dances of India - "Kuchipudi" dance prevalent in Andhra Pradesh. A style of dance closely related to Bharata Natyam.

21. 30 Dec. 1980 100 paise. Brides of India - "Bride of Tamilnadu" indicative of Tamil cultural expression.

22. 25 Mar. 1981 280 paise. "Apple" (Definitive stamp)

23. 20 Dec. 1975 75 paise. Dances of India - "Kathak" from India is the urban sophisticated style of dance.

24. 19 Aug. 1993 100 paise. "National Integration" - India has a glorious heritage that become richer over the centuries by assimilating the best of different cultures. A Matrix shown in the stamp conceptualises the strength born out of a different and diverse strands in the National fabric.

25. 20 Dec. 1975 50 paise. Dances of India - "Orissi."

26. 28 Dec. 1982 325 paise. Orange (Definitive stamp).

Plate No. 20.

Cities of India (27 and 30)

27. 24 Dec. 1990 650 paise. Cities of India - Cuttack. India's is an ancient civilisation which has seen the rise and fall of many kingdoms and cities. The city of Cuttack is a thousand years old one. The most important land mark of the city is the Fort of Barabati which was built by King Anangbhim Deva -IV (1211-38 AD).

Tribal Dances (28, 29, 37 and 38).

28. 30 Apr. 1991 500 paise. Tribal Dance - "Hozagiri" The hinterland of India is inhabited by various tribes. Their characteristic dances form an important and colourful part of traditions and customs. Hazagiri is almost a part of the daily life of Reang women of Tripura in the East. Standing on earthern pitchers rythematically twist the lower part of their bodies while at the same time balancing and waving metal plates on their hands.

29. 30 Apr. 1991 650 paise. 'Velakali' is a Tribal dance predominantly performed by Kundividians and Nairs of Kerala in South India. Basically it is a martial dance full of dramatic situations depicting the victory of the Pandavas over the Kauravas narrated in the Great Epic "Mahabharata."

30. 24 Dec. 1990 50 paise. Cities of India - Bikaner. Founded in 1488 AD - is situated in the heart of great Thar Desert with its oppressive and hostile climate. Bikaner has yet flourished in arts, crafts and culture. With its rich cultural heritage, it is one of the foremost tourist spot in Rajasthan.

Indian Masks (31, 32, 34 and 35)

31. 15 Apr. 1974 1 Re. Mask "Narasimha"- Masks in India have been an integral

part of traditional drama, dance and dance drama, apart from their ceremonial and totenic and sacrificial uses. Narasimha is an 'avatar ' (incarnation) of God Vishnu when he assumed the very peculiar half man and half beast form (lion) to slay the demon king Hiranya Kashipa. Mask "Narasimha" is still used in traditional village plays in South India.

32. 15 Apr. 1974 50 paise. Mask - Moon. The Moon, Sun and 'Ravana' are paper masks used in the Ramlila, a dance drama performed on the banks of the holy Ganges in the ancient city of Benaras. Moon is regarded in Indian mythology as demi-god.
33. 28 Dec. 1991 200 paise. "Sidhartha with an injured Bird" a painting by Asit Kumar Haldar, the pioneer of Renaissance school of Indian painting.
34. 15 Apr. 1974 20 paise. (Mask) - Sun is regarded in Indian mythology as demi-god.
35. 15 Apr. 1974 2 Rs. (Mask) - Ravana is the ten-headed demon signifying all evil and Ramlila depicts the triumph of good over evil.
36. 23 Mar. 1978 25 paise Two Vaishnavas - Modern Indian painting by Jamini Roy depicts two vaishnava devotees.
37. 30 Apr. 1991 400 paise. Tribal dance - "Kayang" is a popular tribal dance form of Kinnaur in Himachal Pradesh.
38. 30 Apr. 1991 250 paise. Tribal Dance - "Valar" is the typical dance of Garasias tribe of Rajasthan in the West.
39. 23 Mar. 1978 50 paise. The Mosque - Modern Indian painting by Sailoz Mookherjee.
40. 02 Sep. 1992 500 paise. Dev Narayan Painting. There is a rich tradition of story telling in India. Stories of heroes and their heroic deeds are sung, danced or dramatized in various traditional ways. Phad is a large painted scroll depicting the stories of legendary heroes like Dev Narayan and Pabuji. The stamp depicts a Phad with a painted story from the life of Dev Narayana painted by Shri Shrilal Joshi.
41. 02 Sep. 1992 200 "Hill Women" - Modern Indian painting by Amrita Shergil.
42. 05 May 1973 1 Re. "Lovers on Camel back" - Indian Miniature painting portraying the folk tale of Dhola and Maru in Rajasthani style (c. 1605 AD).
43. 05 May 1973 2 Rs. "Taming of elephant" - painted by Zain-al-Abidin during Emperor Jehangir's period.
44. 23 Feb. 1978 100 paise. "Head" - Modern Indian painting by Rabindranath Tagore.
45. 05 Dec. 1983 100 paise. "Pratiksha" (The Waiting) by Nandlal Bose.
46. 08 Jan. 1973 1 Re. A ceremonial elephant (and the theme stamp on stamp) INDIPEX - (Miniature Sheet).
47. 03 Oct. 1983 200 paise. Ghats of Varanasi, the ancient city of India.

Theme 19 : Educational Institutions

Plate No. 21.

1. 15 Mar. 1969 20 paise Osmania University came into being on 22 September 1918 AD. when its Royal Founder His Exalted Highness Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, the then Nizam of Hyderabad issued a Firman. It represents also the cultural synthesis of the North and the South. It has contributed greatly to the intellectual growth of Hyderabad, and it has lived up to its motto of "Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya" (Lead me from darkness to light). The magic touch of the late Sir Akbar Hydari, a statesman of great vision, who later became the Prime Minister of the State, transformed it into a store-house of bristling

intellectual activity, occupying a proud place among the temples of wisdom and learning in our country. Osmania has been selected by the University Grants Commission to be an all-India centre for advanced training and research in Experimental Astronomy. A new 48-inch telescope, the largest in South-East Asia, has been erected at Rangapur for the Nizamiah Observatory of the University.

2. 31 Dec. 1957 10 paise. Calcutta University Centenary. Universities Act of 1857 AD led to the establishment of Universities of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras.
3. 23 Sep. 1987 200 paise. University of Allahabad Centenary. The Central College of Allahabad established on 01st July 1872 AD developed into a University with the passing of Act XVIII on 22nd September 1887 AD.
4. 31 Dec. 1957 10 np. Madras University Centenary.
5. 31 Dec. 1957 10 paise. Bombay University Centenary
6. 19 May 1989 100 paise. Punjab University formerly the East Punjab University was created by a special ordinance of 01st October 1947 AD. It is a continuum of the Punjab University Lahore, which had incorporated in 1882 AD.
7. 20 Jan. 1991 100 paise. Banaras Hindu University. It represents the fulfillment of Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya's life mission. It was on the auspicious day of Vasant Panchami, the day dedicated to Saraswati, the goddess of learning, that this sapling was planted on the holy banks of river Ganga (Ganges). This national university was born and nurtured in the cradle of freedom movement.
8. 24 Dec. 1971 20 paise. Viswa Bharati Golden Jubilee. Viswa Bharati was inaugurated in December 1921 AD by Nobel Prize Winner Ravindra Nath Tagore.
9. 03 Sep. 1976 25 paise. SNDT Women's University. In 1916 AD, Dr. Dhondo Keshav Karve started with just four students the Indian Women's University at Hingne, near Poona. The headquarters of the University were shifted to Bombay in 1936 AD, and in 1951 AD, it received statutory recognition.
10. 16 Dec. 1993 60 paise. Papal Seminary, Pune Centenary (1883-1983 AD). In 1893 AD Pope Leo XII established a Seminary to train indigenous priests in India. It was opened in Kandy in Ceylon (now Srilanka) in May 1893 AD In 1955 AD, the Seminary was moved to Pune in India.
11. 28 Feb. 1993 100 paise. CSIR Golden Jubilee.
12. 08 Nov. 1993 200 paise. Golden Jubilee of College of Military Engineering.

13. 29 Oct. 1970 20 paise. Jamia Millia Islamia was founded at Aligarh in 1920 AD, as an integral part of the policy animating the Khilafat and Non-Co-operation Movements. Distinguished leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Muhammad Ali, Hakin Ajmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Dr.Zakir Hussain were among its founders. In 1925 AD, the Jamia moved from Aligarh to Delhi. Through profession and practice, the Jamia Millia has sedulously fostered the idea that all the people of India irrespective of their language and faith form one great Indian nation. Instruction to every student in his own religion has also been an important component of its syllabus and students and teachers of all religions have lived and worked here in a spirit of comraderie. In Jamia, religion has been made an instrument for promoting mutual understanding and corporate living. The Jamia is not only an educational institution, but a cultural institution also. It has successfully discharged its cultural responsibilities by doing everything to realise the ideals of that composite culture which came into being as a result of Hindus and Muslims living together for centuries.
14. 25 Apr. 1993 100 paise. Meerut College.

15. 04 Sep. 1978 25 paise. Bethune College was established on 04th September 1950? AD in Calcutta. This was the Hindu Female School later called the Bethune School.

16. 07 June 1969 20 paise. Serampore College was established in 1818 AD, by Dr. William Carey and his associates, under Royal Danish Charter which empowered the College to confer degrees in Theology. These pioneer missionaries were members of the British Baptist Missionary Society, which was formed in 1792 AD. Carey came out to India in 1793 AD, but due to the hostility of the British East India Company, was obliged to carry on his missionary work for several years as an indigo planter in Malda till he was given protection and shelter in the Danish Settlement at Serampore. The objective of the missionaries was to introduce Eastern literature and Western Science to this country. Their contribution in the fields of arts and science, agricul. ture, horticulture, archaeology, journalism, social welfare, etc., had been significant. Indeed this period of their work in the field of education was hailed by the historians as the 19th century renaissance in Bengal. Serampore College was and, perhaps, still today is the only college which imparts religious and secular education under the management. It is clearly laid down in its constitution that *" no caste, colour or country shall bar any man from admission to the College."* It was both Oriental and Occidental in character, trying to maintain the regional language as the medium of instruction.

17. 27 Sep. 1980 35 paise. Scottish Church College Calcutta. The College initially known as the General Assembly's Institution, was founded on the 13th July 1930 AD, by Dr. Alexander Duff, the first overseas missionary of the Church, of Scotland to India. Dr. Duff with Raja Rammohan Roy, the Father of Modern India, played significant role in supporting Lord Macaulay in drafting his famous minute for the introduction of English education in India. The Scottish Church College played a pioneering role in women's education as well as co-education in the country, girls comprise half the present roll strength of the College. With the added interest of the missionaries in educational work and social upliftment, the College stands as a monument to Indo-Scottish Co-operation. The galaxy of alumni includes men of international fame like Swami Vivekananda, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and others.

18. 01 Feb. 1981 35 paise. St. Stephen's College Delhi was founded in February 1881 AD, by a Christian Mission from Cambridge, England.

19. 24 Dec. 1978 25 paise. Ravenshaw College, Cuttack.

20. 27 Mar. 1970 20 paise. Nalanda College, Biharsharif (Bihar) is the oldest College of Magadh University. It was established as a Bihar English School (c. 1871 AD). It welcomed into a full-fledged college in 1920 AD.

21. 12 Apr. 1985 100 paise. St. Xaviers College, Calcutta. In November 1859 AD, a small band of seven Belgian Jesuits landed in Calcutta and under the leadership of Fr. H. Depelchin, started their educational activities on 16th January 1860 AD, in a building at 10 Park Street, which since 1840 AD, had been the famous Sana Souci Theatre. These were very humble beginnings, with only about 40 students spread over three classes. Two years later in 1862 AD, the college was affiliated to the Calcutta University. Amongst the many alumni of the early days of its existence, St. Xavier's can boast of some of its pupils who became world famous in later years. Men of great wisdom, intellect and scholarships have passed through the portals of this college Notable amongst the luminaries are Rabindranath Tagore and Jagdish Chandra Bose. In his autobiography, Tagore wrote, "I shall always retain one memory of St. Xavier's, the memory of its teachers." What Tagore wrote long ago is also true today, the relationship between teachers and students is still something unique. Fr. Lafont who was a remarkable teacher

of science, had a knack for popularising science and did much for its spread in the country, so much so, that, he was called "the father of science in India." Fr. Lafont's initiative and enthusiasm soon made St. Xavier's famous for its science teaching and experimental work, a tradition which has been maintained up to the present day. To the young scholars entrusted to its care, the college endeavours to impart an education based on the spirit of its founder St. Ignatius (1491 - 1556 AD). The Ignatian vision of education goes far beyond the achievement of academic excellence. It includes a radical change of heart in the person of the educated and of the educator, turning them from selfish concerns to unreserved generosity to God and to their fellow men; it is characterised by an inner liberation of the spirit, making him truly free and mature, capable of assuming what ever responsibility is imposed on him. In India's struggle for the establishment of a just society, all educational institutions should aim at making their contributions towards radical transformation of present day social conditions, a transformation where principles of social justice, equality of opportunity, genuine freedom, respect for religious and moral values, equality of opportunity, genuine freedom, respect for religious and moral values enshrined in the Constitution of India may prevail and the possibility of living a fully human existence may be open before all.

22. 16 Apr. 1987 150 paise. Madras Christian College. The institution of Madras Christian College started with the arrival into the country in 1837 AD, of the young missionary, John Anderson. He set up school, one of many, in Georgetown, Madras and nursed it through its teething problems. The continuing viability of the college lies in its adaptability and resilience, its ability to respond with wisdom and courage to time and tide.
23. 12 Apr. 1986 100 paise. Mayo College, Ajmer (Estd. 1875 AD).
24. 21 Mar. 1980 30 paise. Darul Uloom, Deoband. The 1857 AD, War of Independence was fought with unique revolutionary fervour and sense of national identity. One of its many remarkable features was the participation of a large number of Muslim divines and thinkers who not only issued edicts in favour of the war against the British, but also often fought as combat soldiers in the nationalist army. Among those who took part in the battle of Shamli in Muzaffarnagar District of Uttar Pradesh was the great scholar, Shah Imdadullah Muhajir Makki; one of the companions in arms was a 25 years old scholar Muhammad Qasim, of Nanatua in Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh later to become famous all over the Islamic world as the founder and the guiding spirit of the Darul-uloom at Deoband (District Saharanapur). Founded in 1866 AD, with the inspiration of Shah Imadadullah Muhajir Makki, Maulana Rashid Ahmed Gangohi and other great muslims of the time, the Darul Uloom began to attract students and scholars from far and wide even during the brief life span of Maulana Muhammad Qasim. The institution kept up its tradition of unflinching devotion to the laws and learning of Islam in their pristine purity, strong nationalist bias and total independence of Government aid. It became, in the words of the late President Rajendra Prasad, "a stronghold of freedom". During its 128 years of existence, it has not accepted any grant or aid from any Government body and yet has been able to educate highest level of more than 15,000 scholars to Islamic laws, theology, philosophy and medicine. Students have come to it from as far as the USSR, China, Africa, and even Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Yemen. At present its enrolment exceeds 1,800:, the number of resident teachers and men of learning is almost 400. Among those who have taught or studied at Darul-Uloom are some of the greatest names in the world of Islamic learning during the last one hundred years. The Darul-Uloom has stood over the years as a citadel of the ideals of freedom and self-determination against European imperialism all over Asia and Africa.

25. 20 Feb. 1985 100 paise Medical College, Calcutta

26. 02 Jan. 1985 100 paise. Fergusson College, Pune. The famous Deccan Education Society which is the parent body of several educational institutions spread over the land scape of Maharashtra founded the Fergusson College, a premier institution of liberal learning in India, in the years 1885 AD. The Society itself was founded by the stalwarts of the Indian Freedom Movement - Lokmanya Tilak, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, Vishnushastri Chiplunkar and Madhavrao Namjoshi. The first two were also its distinguished teachers and Prof. Agarkar was its Principal (1892-95 AD). It has been named after Sir James Fergusson, K.C.M.G., C.I.E. Governor of Bombay who took keen interest in the development of the New English School as well as the Fergusson College and was the first patron of the Deccan Education Society. It was inaugurated on 2nd January, 1885 AD, by William Wordsworth, the grandson fo the great English poet. Hon. Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Maharshi Dhonde Keshav Karve-Bharat Ratna, have taught in this College, while Prof. V.S.Apte, Prof. Agarkar R.P. Paranjype and Dr. G.S. Mahajani have been its distinguished Principals. The distinguished alumni of the College include Veer Savarkar, Acharya Kripalani, Ram Ganesh Gadkari, Shri Kakasaheb Kelelkar, Shri H.V. Pataskar, Shri N.V.Gadgil, Shri B.Ramkrishna Rao, Acharya Atre, Shri B.S. Mardhekar and many others who have been at the helm of affairs in various walks of life.

27. 10 Feb. 1976 20 paise. Kashi Vidyapith. In 1920 AD, at the special session of the Indian National Congress which met at Calcutta, the non-cooperation programme was adopted. One of the items of this programme was to withdraw students from Government and semi-Government educational institutions. In pursuance of this, some students left the official institutions and established a Gandhi Ashram at Iswar Gangi in Varanasi to carry on national work, as suggested by the Indian National Congress. Simultaneously, a plan for starting an independent national institution was also maturing. Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated the Kashi Vidyapith on the 10th February 1921 (28th Magh, 1977) in the presence of leaders like Pandit Motilal Nehru, Maulana Mohammed Ali, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Shri Jamnalal Bajaj, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and tens of thousands of patriotic Indians who had gathered at Varanasi.The Kashi Vidyapith began to function on these lines with Dr. Bhagwan Das as the Kulapati, as well as the Principal. Acharya J.B. Kripalani, Acharya Narendra Deva, Shri Shri Prakasa, Dr. Sampurnanand and Shri Birbal Singh joined the Vidyapith as members of the staff. The institution became an eyesore to the then foreign Government. During the freedom movement of 1930 AD, 1932 AD, 1940 AD, and 1942 AD, almost all the students and the members of the staff participated in the fight for independence and were jailed by the British Government and the institution was locked and kept under the control of the police.

28. 06 Mar. 1985 100 paise. Medical College, Madras.

29. 19 Apr. 1989 60 paise. Sydenham College is known for having pioneered commerce education in the country. It was set up by the then Government of Bombay Province in October, 1913 AD. It was named after Lord Sydenham of Combe, the Governor of Bombay. Sydenham has grown into a premier institution of India imparting instruction in commerce courses of the University of Bombay. Sydenham college has aptly chosen *"Labour Omina Vinot"* or *Labour conquers all* as its motto.

30. 20 Apr. 1992 600 paise. National Archives. Situated at the Rajpath-Janpath crossing in the heart of New Delhi, National Archives of India is the repository of records of enduring value to posterity. Established at Calcutta in 1891 AD, as the Imperial Record Department, it shifted to Delhi after the present building was completed in 1926 AD. The

regular series in the National Archives of India begin from 1748 AD, but the oldest document being preserved dates back to 1352 AD. The Total holdings of the National Archives comprising approximately 30,00,000 files, volumes, maps etc. cover about 30 kms. of shelf space. Apart from public records, National Archives of India has assiduously built up a rich collection of private papers of eminent personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Azad, G.B. Pant, B.R. Ambedkar, M.R.Jayakar, Dadabhai Naoroji, etc. There is also a vast collection of Persian records, including 'farmans' of Mughal Emperors. A variety of reference material like Guides, Indexes, Catalogues, etc. are available for the benefits of research scholars.

31. 11 Jan. 1989 60 paise. State Museum, Lucknow, the oldest in the State, was established in 1863 AD. The Museum has a collection of about 83,000 specimens broadly classified into five major sections: archaeological, numismatic, art, natural history and ethnography. Apart from these, the collection also has representations of ornaments, arms & armours, manuscripts & firmans, musical instruments and other miscellaneous items.

32. 15 Jan. 1984 100 paise. The Asiatic Society. In a meeting of leading European Citizens of Calcutta, held on the 15th of January, 1784 AD, in Calcutta, Sir William Jones, an illustrious educationist mooted a proposal for the founding of a society for enquiring into History - Civil and Natural, the Anqtiquities, Arts, Sciences and literature of India and the Asiatic Society was brought into existence with the then Governor General Warren Hastings as its patron and Sir William Jones as its president. The institution thus founded proved to be the fountain head of all literary and scientific activities in India and the parent of all other Asiatic Societies of the world. For long years, the Society has advised the Government of India on matters of scientific interest, and infact, quite a good number of scientific and research institutions of the country owe their inception or further development to the Society. To illustrate, mention may be made of a few of such institutions which owe their inception to the Society viz., the University of Calcutta, the Indian Museum, the School of Tropical Medicines in Calcutta, the Indian Science Congress, the Geological Survey of India and Indian National Science Academy. In the domain of literary, scientific and humanistic studies and researches, the Asiatic Society, by its unique and useful existence of its kind for the last more than 200 years is but to be reckoned as beacon light, the radiant effulgence of which brought to the fore new ideas and concepts and opened up new vistas by its meaningful contribution towards cultural and social progress and international goodwill.

33. 30 Oct. 1979 30 paise. National Archives of India.

Theme 20 : Science and Scientists

Plate No. 22.

1. 19 June 1982 200 paise. Apple Satellite - The successful launching of APPLE (Ariane Passenger Payload Experiment) India's first three-axis stabilised experimental communication satellite, using ARIANE lAUNCHER, on June 19, 1981 AD, marks an important milestone in India's space programme. By positioning the APPLE Spacecraft in the three-axis stabilised mode in the geostationary orbit at 102 E longitude on July 16, 1981 AD after carrying out complicated mission manoeuvres, India joined the ranks of nations who have developed their own three-axis stabilised geostationary communication satellites. The APPLe Utilisation Programme was formally inaugurated on August 13, 1981 through a nationwide TV hookup via APPLE. Under APPLE utilisation

programme a number of communication experiments are being carried out in cooperation with Posts and Telegraphs, Doordarshan, TIFR and others.

2. 18 July 1981 100 paise. SLV-3, India's first satellite launch Vehicle, successfully took off from Sriharikota Range (SHAR) in Andhra Pradesh on 18 July 1980 AD lofted 35 kgs ROHINI satellite in near earth orbit. India thus became the seventh member of the exclusive club of nations having their own satellite launch capability.
3. 30 Nov. 1958 15 np. Jagdish Chandra Bose (1858 - 1937 AD) the internationally famous botanist land physicist. He received the D.Sc., from the Cambridge University in 1896 AD.
4. 12 Dec. 1974 2 Re. Marconi (1874 - 1937 AD) the Italian physicist, a recipient of Nobel prize for physics in 1909 AD. He invented wireless telegraphy in 1895 AD, wireless telephony in 1897 AD, and in 1932 AD developed the first microwave telephone link and demonstrated principles of radar in 1935 AD.
5. 20 Apr. 1975 25 paise. Aryabhatta. India's first satellite named after famous Indian mathematician and astronomer of 5th century AD was launched in 1975 AD.
6. 21 Oct. 1979 100 paise. Electric Lamp was invented by the great scientist and inventor Thomas Alva Edison of United Stats of America (1847 - 1931 AD).
7. 20 July 1979 200 paise. Phonograph - In April,1877 AD Charles Cros, French poet, intellectual and inventor of a method of colour photography, had deposited with the Academic des Sciences in Paris a proposal for a machine to record and replay sound. At about the same time and quite independently, Thomas Alva Edison, while experimenting with means of transmitting signals by telegraph, discovered a method of recording and replaying intelligible words. Legend has it that the first sentence successfully recorded and replayed to the astonishment of the listeners was "Mary had a little lamb". On December 24, 1877 AD, Edison applied for a patent which was in due course granted. It was the first patent to cover means of recording and replaying sound. In the same year, 1877 AD, Emile Berliner successfully developed a method for manufacturing recorded discs quickly and cheaply in large quantities. Berliner has been described by many as the father of the Record Business. In May 1888 AD he demonstrated the working prototype of a 'disc playing' gramophone. In 1893 AD gramophones were first offered for sale to the public. The gramophone had arrived.
8. 24 Mar. 1982 305 paise. Radio Telescope, Ooty. The indigenous design, fabrication and erection of the Ooty radio telescope has resulted in infusing confidence for self reliance in the whole area relating to the design and fabrication of large microwave antennae in India. A novel form of low cost but high efficiency solar energy concentrator, based on a concept of the Ooty Radio Telescope, has been designed.
9. 18 May 1983 200 paise. Charles Darwin(1809 - 1882 AD). His great two books, "The Origin of Species" and "The Descent of Man" continue to influence human thought ever since.
10. 23 Oct. 1984 100 paise. Dr. D.N. Wadia (born 1919 AD)is considered as the father of India's space technology.
11. 02 Aug. 1961 15 np. Prafulla Chandra Ray (1861 - 1944 AD). A chemist of international repute. His two volumes on the "History of Hindu Chemicals" gives a deep insight into the ancient Indian science.
12. 10 Mar. 1976 25 paise. Alexander Graham Bell (b. 1847) inventor of the Telephone was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.
13. 22 Dec. 1962 15 np. Srinivasa Ramanujan (1887 - 1920 AD) the Indian mathematical genius. The Royal Society of England had made him a Fellow of the Royal

Society of England). His mathematical work is on the theory of numbers, theory of partition and the theory of continued frictions. Most of his papers on mathematics edited by Professor G.H. Hardy, P.V. Seshu Aiyer and B.M. Wilson were published under the title, " Collected Papers of Srinivasa Ramanujan" (1927 AD).

14. 21 July 1973 1 Re. Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 - 1543 AD), the eminent Polish mathematician and astronomer who propounded the Heliocentric theory of Universe and revolutionised the thinking structure of the Universe and laid down the foundation for new cosmology.

15. 04 Aug. 1966 15 paise. Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha (1907 - 1966 AD). Prime architect of Indian atomic and space research programme. Through his initiative was founded the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in 1945 AD, of which he was the first Director.

16. 21 Nov. 1971 20 paise. Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman (1888 - 1970 AD). Many of his notable achievements in the realms of acoustics and optics pertained to this era. As a natural sequel to his studies on the scattering of light, Shri Raman discovered in early 1928 AD, a new phenomenon, now named after him as "Raman Effect." In 1930 AD, Shri Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for this discovery which found innumerable uses in unravelling the molecular structure of very many complicated compounds. For a time Shri Raman was associated with Posts and Telegraphs Department when he was the Deputy Accountant General for Posts and Telegraphs at Calcutta.

17. 17 Aug. 1983 50 paise. Ram Nath Chopra (1882 - 1973 AD) acclaimed today as the Father of Pharmacology in India. He also did pioneering researches on herbal drugs in India.

18. 06 Nov. 1968 20 paise. Marie Curie (1867 - 1934 AD) the famous French Scientist who discovered Radium and Radium activity jointly with her husband Pierre Curie in 1911 AD, was awarded Nobel Prize twice, once in 1903 AD and another time, jointly with her husband Pierre Curie again in 1911 AD.

19. 30 Dec. 1972 20 paise. Vikram A. Sarabhai.

20. 24 May 1982 305 paise. Radio Telescope, Ooty - This large Radio Telescope, which is in the form of a parabolic cylinder 530 M long x 30 M wide, operating at 327 MHz, is one of the largest telescopes in the world operating at Meter wavelengths. The telescope is occupied for about 10 hours a day for survey and studies of radio sources in the sky by the Lunar occultation technique. The telescope is used for the study of compact radio sources by observing the fluctuation of the intensity of radio signals from radio sources caused by the inter-planetary medium. This information is valuable for cosmological investigations and also gives one of the best early warnings for geomagnetic disturbances. The telescope is also used for other programmes such as flare stars, radio recombination line and deuterium studies etc.

21. 20 Oct. 1983 100 paise. Atomic Reactor, Trombay

22. 21 July 1973 50 paise. Dr. Hansen - Norwegian scientist who discovered Leprosy Bacillus.

23. 14 Mar. 1979 100 paise. Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955 AD) renowned physicist, mathematician and humanist. He was awarded Nobel Prize in 1921 AD.

24. 03 Dec. 1993 100 paise. Professor Meghnad Saha's greatest contribution in the field of science is the theory of thermal ionisation. The theory, which afterwards was to bear his name, is one of the cornerstones of theoretical astrophysics. The impetus given to astrophysics by prof. Saha's work can scarcely be overestimated; nearly all later progress

in this field has been influenced by it. He also made notable contributions in the field of magnetism, statistical physics, ionospheric physics, nuclear physics etc. He was one of the earliest contributors to the concept of monopoles and its physical consequences. The fellowship of Royal Society was bestowed upon him for his outstanding scientific contributions.

25. 01 Jan. 1994 100 paise. S.N. Bose (b. 1894 AD). His contribution to science spanned a wide field touching upon areas of Physics, Chemistry and Life Sciences. It was in the realm of Theoretical Physics, however, that he had his most eminent achievement when he derived Plank's radiation law considering only the corpuscular nature of light. This approach was greatly appreciated by Albert Einstein and even led to their joint effort that eventually gave birth to Bose-Einstein Statistics, a landmark in Physics. The true significance of this work found recognition when, defining the fundamental nature, one was named after Bose as Boston, the other being Fermion, named after the famous Physicist Enrico Fermi. The other significant contribution of Professor Sagtyendra Nath Bose to the realm of Physics is his proposal of unified field theory, embracing the gravitational electro magnetic forces together.

Theme 21 : Religions

Plate No. 23.

1. 13 Feb. 1981 100 paise. The Dargah Sharif, Ajmer draws people of all sects the world over to pay homage to Hazrat Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chisti (R.A.) who was one of the greatest Sufi saints of the Chisti order in India. Among many other Sufi spiritual leaders were Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtyar Kaki of Delhi, Hazrat Baba Fariduddin Masud Ganj-e-Shakar of Pak Patan District Sahiwal (now in Pakistan). Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia of Delhi, Hazrat Alauddin Ali Ahmed Sabir of Kalyar, Hazrat Nasiruddin Mahmood of Oudh (popularly known as Chirag-e-Delhi and Hazrat Syed Mohammed Husaini Gesu Daraz of Gulbarga, Karnataka.

   Khwaja Moinuddin Hasan Chisti (b. 530 Hijri) was born to Hazrat Ghyasuddin Chishti and Bibi Mahnoor Ummul Vara at Sanjar in Sijistan province of Iran. He lost his parents at a young age, growing up into a quiet and solitary boy. A meeting with Hazrat Ibrahim Kandozi changed the course of his life. He gave away his wealth and property to the poor and set out in search of spiritual sustenance. His search took him finally to Hazrat Khwaja Usman Harun who initiated him into the Chishti order of Sufis. He remained under the guidance of Khwaja Haruni for twenty years and ultimately became his "Khalifa". Thereafter he visited Iran, Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. Khwaja Saheb came to India with forty followers in 1191 AD. He settled at Ajmer devoting himself to the spiritual needs of the poor, providing succor to the needy. In his eyes the true devotee was a man with charity that flowed endlessly like a river, affection warm as sunshine and as impartial, hospitality and humility like the earth with its riches to all men. People called him "Gharib Nawaz" (the sustainer of the poor) out of love and reverence. Khwaja Sahib passed away in 627 Hijri. But even today the Dargah Sharif Ajmer, stands in his memory drawing people to him and his mission of charity, love and goodwill.

2. 26 Feb. 1987 60 paise. Sri Harminder Sahib, Amritsar. Sikh religion was founded by Shri Gurunanak Dev (1469 -1548 AD). After him there were ten Gurus (preachers). The Fourth Guru of the Sikh religion, Ram Das got a piece of land from Emperor Akbar

in 1577 AD as a gift. On the said land, Guru Ram Das built a shrine which was later reconstructed in the shape of Golden temple of Amritsar by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the great sikh leader and one of India's most powerful emperors.

3. 24 Dec. 1974 25 paise. St.Francis Xavier came to India in May 1542 AD and preached the Gospel of Christ. He is acclaimed as the second Apostle of India as he followed the foot steps of St. Thomas. After his death in 1554 AD, he was buried in China and later brought to India as interred in Basalica of Bom Jesus in Goa in a silver casket.
4. 17 May 1989 60 paise. Sankaracharya (born in 788 AD) re-established Advaita and systematised it. To him "Jeevatma" and "Paramatma" are the same, one and invisible. Travelling all over India by foot, he propogated a unifying spiritual outlook among all people through discussions and debate.
5. 25 Aug. 1978 25 paise. Bhagwad Geeta, the divine song of Lord occurs in the Bhishma Parva of the Great Epic Maharabharata. It is considered as a scripture of the highest authority and a practical guide to living by generations in India and abroad.
6. 03 Nov. 1980 35 paise. 1400 Hijri. The migration of the Holy prophet of Islam, Hazrat Mohammed (Sallallahu Aliehi Vasallam) from Mecca to Medina is a significant event in the spread of Islam. The Hijri Calendar commences from the date of this migration. In Arabic, Hijra means "Migration".
7. 24 May 1956 2 As. 2500th Buddha Jayanti (Birth Anniversary of Gautama Buddha).
8. 03 July 1973 20 paise. Saint Thomas - Nineteenth Death Centenary 72 AD - 1972 AD. St. Thomas is one of the many disciples of Christ. Soon after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven, St. Peter and St. Paul proceeded West to preach the Gospel to the whole of creation at the very same time, St. Thomas had proceeded eastwards to India. Tradition is that St. Thomas first proceeded to the north-western parts of India and had to leave it around 47 AD. The traditional belief supported by strong evidences of the activities of St. Thomas in South India is that he sailed from Arabia to India and landed at Cranganore about the year 52 AD. In Kerala, he founded seven churches at Palayur, Cranganore, Kottakavu (Parur), Kokkamangalam, Niranam, Nilakal and Quilon. After his evangilisation on the west coast, he shifted his activities to the Coromondal coast in the East. Three places are outstanding in their connection with the missionary labours of St. Thomas in this part viz., Mylapore, Little Mount or Chinna Malai and St. Thomas Mount or Perimalai. Here he was the favourite of the local King Mahadevan. But he was ever in danger of losing his life by the scheming ministers of the king. St. Thomas had to hide in the jungles of the Little Mount to escape persecution. From Little Mount he shifted to St. Thomas Mount, a very difficult place of access in those days. But the marauders sought him there, and were on the point of seizing him. Unbroken tradition maintains that while the Apostle was praying before the cross carved by him on a stone, which is seen to this day, an assassin procured by King Mahadevan's ministers and priests, crept up stealthily and pierced him with a lance from behind. Thereupon, the Apostle is reported to have fallen on the stone cross and embraced it, his blood wetting it and the space around. This was in the year 72 AD. This cross was accidentally discovered as the Portugese were digging up the foundations of a new church on the mount. It is now installed in this church. This cross is specially adopted for design of this stamp, being closely associated with the death of St. Thomas.
9. 09 Feb. 1981 100 paise. "Gommateswara" at Shrawna Belagola (Karnataka) is the tatue of Bahubali, sculptured out of granite stone at a granite hill around 981 AD. Statue

of Bahubali, the second son of Rishabhamatha, the first thirthankara of Jain mythology, is 18 metres high.

10. 15 Dec. 1968 20 paise. Cochin Synagogue. After the destruction of the second temple Jerusalem by the Roman Emperor Vespasian's son Titus, some of the Jews appear to have reached Kerala in South India in 72 AD. A Synagogue was constructed by the Jews in Cochin in 1568 AD

11. 13 Nov. 1974 25 paise. Bhagwan Mahavira. 2500th Anniversary of attainment of Nirvana by Bhagwan Mahavira, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

12. 24 May 1956 14 As. 2500th Buddha Jayanti.- Round Parasol with Bodhi Tree.

13. 11 Sep. 1993 200 paise. Swamy Vivekananda - Centenary of Chicago address. On 11th September 1893 AD, it was in the great Hall of Columbus at Art Institute building at Chicago, Swamy Vivekananda delivered his speech in the world's Parliament of Religions. Referring to this address, the New York Herald wrote "He is undoubtedly the greatest figure in the Parliament of Religions."

"*Sisters and Brothers of America. It fills my heart with joy unspeakable torise in response to the warm and cordial welcome which you have given me. I thank you in the name of the most ancient order of monks in the world.*" thus began the historic address of Swamy Vivekananda at the World's Parliament of Religions, Chicago on the 11th September, 1893 AD and ended with the stirring call " *and I fervently hope that the bell that toiled this morning in honour of this Convention may be the death-knell of all fanaticism, of all persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal.*"

14. 01 May 1988 60 paise. Samartha Ramdas.

15. 14 Sep. 1971 20 paise. Swamy Virjanand (1778-1868 AD), the blind sage of Mathura is the celebrated teacher of Swami Dayanand Saraswati who founded the Arya Samaj.

16. 13 Mar. 1986 200 paise. Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (born 1486 AD). A life-long denouncer of untouchability and casteism.

17. 18 Feb. 1973 20 paise. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahamsa (1836-1886 AD). From a very early age, he showed a spiritual bent of mind. Major part of his life was spent in the temple of Kali at Dakshineswar, a suburb of Calcuta. In his 23rd year he was married to a young girl, Sarada, but their life remained free from physical pleasures. Narendranath Dutt, who later became the world-famous Swami Vivekananda, was one of the most important disciples of Sri Ramakrishna and after the Master's passing away the former founded the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission.

18. 17 Jan. 1963 15 paise. Vivekananda.

19. 11 Apr. 1975 25 paise. Arya Samaj Centenary. Arya Samaj was founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 AD. It aimed at reviving and propagating the Vedic religion and Aryan culture and pioneered the removal of social evils such as untouchability and caste system.

20. 08 Sep. 1986 200 paise. Swamy Sivananda (1887-1963 AD) was initiated into the Paramhamsa Sanyasa order by Swami Vivekananda.

21. 02 Dec. 1964 15 paise. Saint Thomas.

22. 27 Oct. 1968 20 paise. Sister Nivedita was the name given to Margaret Noble (born in Ireland) by Swami Vivekananda. Margaret Noble at the age of 28 met the great Hindu mystic Sri Vivekananda in London. Miss Noble took up the running of a Girl's School in Calcutta. Sister Nivedita's entire life was dedicated to the people of India.

23. 21 Dec. 1978 25 paise. The Mother - Pondicherry or Mira Richard (1878-1973 AD), a French lady by birth is known as Mother of Shri Aurobindo Ashram. She had accepted Sri. Aurobindo as her spiritual guide and philosopher.
24. 11 Nov. 1966 15 paise. Swamy Rama Tirtha (1873-1906 AD). It is in the lap of Himalayas that he found the spiritual bliss. It is here that he blossomed. This is how he stated his experience. "The World is concerned only with my blossoms, and they taste me when I appear before them my flowers. But they do not know how much I have to labour underground, in the dark recesses, in my roots that gather the food for the flowers and the fruits. I am now in my roots." He settled in Uttarkhand and found the real meaning of Vedanta. "If Vedanta is not practised in everyday life, what is the use of it. Vedanta printed in Books and placed on shelves, to be eaten up by worms, won't do. You must live it. Vedanta is the whole truth , it kills if the whole of it is not lived".
25. 01 May 1987 100 paise. Shree Shree Ma Anandamayee (1896-1982 AD). Born in Kheora now in Bangladesh. She took sanyasa in 1838 AD. During the span of her sojourn in the country over two dozen beautiful Ashrams in her name and quite a few other charitable institutions have been established in different places which are rendering yeoman service to the nation.
26. 30 Mar. 1970 20 paise. Swami Shraddhanand. (born in 1856 AD) is the follower of Arya Samaj founded by Swami Dayanand Saraswati. It was at his "Gurukul" an institute of learning, Kangri in Hardwar, Mahatma Gandhi stayed after his return from South Africa and received the titled of Mahatma (the Great soul).
27. 21 Aug. 1967 15 paise. Narayana guru.
28. 04 Mar. 1962 15 np. Dayanand Saraswati (born-1824 AD) is the Founder of "Arya Samaj". Arya Samaj believes in Karma (law of causality) and Rebirth and forbids all external worshiping and rituals. Like many reformers, Dayanand wanted to strip off the later additions and accretions of the Hindu religion and go back to its pure and spiritual sense of Vedic hymns and the Upanishads.
29. 15 Aug. 1972 20 paise. Aurobindo Birth Centenary - Sri Aurobindo (1872-1950 AD) was a great religious teacher and founder of Aurobindo Ashram at Pondicherry.
30. 07 Mar. 1977 25 paise. Paramahamsa Yogananda (1883-1952 A.D). A religious teacher and founder of Yogada Satsanga Society.
31. 23 Nov. 1969 20 paise. Guru Nanak Dev was born on a full moon day, in November 1469 AD at Talwandi (also known as Nankana Sahib). A great religious teacher who preached love and unity to all mankind. People would gather around him whenever he preached his message of love and realisation of God. It is believed that he had visited Mecca, Baghdad and Bokhara. Indian history is studded with names of outstanding personalities who have made notable contributions to every walk of life-art, literature, politics, science and religion. One such outstanding figure is Guru Nanak. He preached the religion of love and unity to all mankind. He did not teach unworldliness or retirement from the world to attain God: rather he preached active participation and working for His attainment. For him, there was only one God and one man. He made no distinction between man and man and did not believe in untouchability or caste. Born 500 years ago in Punjab at Talwandi (also known as Nankana Sahib, now in Western Pakistan) on the full moon day of Kartik (November), "Nanak was a child of smiles and his eyes were silent and wise". As a child, he showed the signs of a saint at a very early age. He composed music, talked of God and life. His mind was a marvel to every one. Sent for education at school, Nanak did not stay long there. He devoted most of his spare time to meditation of the Absolute 'Nirankar'. His sister Nanki was inspired and became

his first disciple. Rai Bular, the Muslim Governor of the place of his birth, followed the spirit. Nanak's father thought that marriage would deviate the boy from the path of other worldliness and he, therefore, married him to Sulakhani at the age of 14. But the father soon found that Nanak was always engulfed in the flood of his own thoughts and wonder. In truth Nanak himself was swallowed by the Infinite and came to be known as Nanak "World Teacher". No longer interested in his work, he shortly afterwards left it altogether. He was not Nanak now, but Guru Nanak. From now on his life took a different turn. He roamed from place to place and inspired everyone who came in his contact with his massage of love and brotherhood and realisation of the God. They found in him their God, their world, their lost soul. Accompanied by Mardana, the rebec player, the Guru went to Sangladeep and other islands in the south of India, as also the Nilgiris Hills. In the east he crossed the borders of Assam and in the north the trans-Himalays. He went to Baghdad, Bokhara and right up to the Caucasian mountains. He later visited Mecca. He travelled through the north-west frontier of India including Kashmir. None has travelled so much with a single purpose, namely, to thrill the earth from end to end with the working of his spirit. He gathered around himself a galaxy of disciples, who were struck with his simplicity and straightforward approach to Divinity. The wanderings of Guru Nanak in his effort to bring home the fundamentals of his teachings were unprecedented when viewed in the context of the facilities and conditions prevailing in those days. He did all this to bring out the hollowness of the rituals, superstitions, beliefs and futility of superficial pilgrimages to the holy places. Guru Nanak appeared on the Indian firmament at a time when the country was badly divided, strife-stricken and mauled by foreign attacks with the moral standards at the lowest ebb. The people had been so thoroughly demoralised that they had neither the will nor the strength to fight oppression. It was Guru Nanak's inspiring hymns, which for the first time brought a message of hope and cheer to the millions of people. Undoubtedly, Guru Nanak, revolutionised the religious thoughts of his time. According to Guru Nanak, God was a Being to be approached and loved, as a fond and faithful wife loves her spouse. Guru Nanak calls Him 'Nirankar', that is formless, yet he also believed that He pervades all creation.

32. 16 Dec. 1975 25 paise. Guru Teg Bahadur (born 1621 AD) is revered as the ninth Guru of the Sikh faith. Youngest of the five sons of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru of the Sikhs. In 1665 AD, Guru Tegh Bahadur founded in the foothills of Shivaliks a town which came to be known as Anandpur. This town became the fountain-head of a regenerating inspiration and scene of memorable deeds of sacrifice and daring.
33. 04 Apr. 1985 50 paise. Baba Jassa Singh Ahluwalia (1817-1783 AD) was the elected supreme commander of the Sikh Federation or 'Misls' during the struggle of Sikh people for freedom. In recognition of his great services to Dharma, he has also been called 'Dharmavir' (Defender of Faith).
34. 17 Jan. 1967 15 paise. Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708 AD), the 10th Sikh Guru and founder of the Khalsa creed of universal brotherwood.
35. 21 Dec. 1979 30 paise. Guru Amar Das (1479-1574 AD) - spiritual leader and the third Guru of Sikh faith. The stamps features the Gurdwara Baoli Sahib, Goindwal, Amritsar.
36. 14 Apr. 1971 20 paise. Sri Ramana Maharshi (1879-1950 AD) - saint and religious teacher who preached 'quest of real self' in attainment of salvation.

Theme 22 : Social/Religious Reformers, Workers and Philantrophic Institutions

Plate No. 24.

1. 15 July 1974 25 paise. Kandukuri Veeresalingam (1848 - 1919 AD) - a crusader against social evils. Advocated re-marriage of widows and abolition of child marriage.
2. 28 Nov. 1977 25 paise. Jotirao Phoole (1827 -1890 AD) - a social reformer and crusader against caste system and untouchability.
3. 04 Sep. 1975 25 paise. Ahilyabai Holkar (1725 - 1795 AD) - a benevolent ruler.
4. 01 Sep. 1987 60 paise. Guru Ghasidas (19th century AD) - created self-confidence amongst the depressed sections of society for their fight against injustice and untouchability.
5. 27 Sep. 1964 15 paise. Rajaram Mohan Roy (1772 - 1833 AD) Founder of Brahm Samaj. The great religious and social reformer considered as the Father of Modern India. He was a life-long campaigner for the abolition of the practice of Sati (immolation of widows on the funeral pyres of their dead husbands).
6. 25 Feb. 1991 200 paise. Jagannath Sunkersett (1803 - 1865 AD) - Educationist and Reformist.
7. 27 Aug. 1980 30 paise. Mother Teresa. Born on 27th August 1910 AD to Albanian parents in Skopje (Yugoslavia) and was baptiosed Agnes. Founder of Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta during 1950 AD which have grown into worldwide order. Her enormous and compassionate work evoked worldwide recognition. She was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 AD.
8. 04 Apr. 1983 100 paise. Saint Francis of Assisi (1182 - 1226 AD) - one of the most popular saint in India. Born in Italy he took to a life of renunciation and service.
9. 09 May 1982 35 paise. Durgabai Deshmukh - social reformer and parliamentarian. Considered as "Mother of Social work in India."
10. 15 Apr. 1959 15 np. Sir Jamshedji Jejeebhoy Bart (1783 - 1839 AD) - philanthrophist and social reformer.
11. 25 Dec. 1961 15 paise. Madan Mohan Malaviya (1861 - 1946 AD) - Educationist and founder of Banaras Hindu University.
12. 28 Feb. 1991 200 paise. Tata Memorial Centre (Estd. 1941 AD) - the largest comprehensive cancer centre for research, treatment and education.
13. 25 Dec. 1985 100 paise. St. Stephen's Hospital, New Delhi (Opened in 1885 AD) - the first hospital for women and children in Delhi.
14. 05 Nov. 1970 20 paise. Indian Red Cross Society - 50th Anniversary (Estd. 1920 AD) - A voluntary humanitarian organisation.
15. 07 Nov. 1991 200 paise. Chitira Tirunal Balarama Verma 1921-1991 AD) - worked for the upliftment of downtrodden and backward communities. A reformer and philantrophist.
16. 17 Sep. 1978 25 paise. E.V. Ramasami (1912 AD - 1973 AD) - social reformer, and the founder of Dravida Munnetra Kazagam (D.M.K.).
17. 13 Nov. 1992 100 paise. Sisters of Jesus and Mary came to India from France in 1842 AD. Opened an orphange for the young Indian girls.
18. 16 Oct. 1972 20 paise. Bhai Vir Singh (1872 - 1957 AD) - social reformer, poet and scholar.
19. 17 Oct. 1973 20 paise. Syed Ahmed Khan (1817 - 1898 AD) - eminent educationist and social reformer. In 1875 AD, he established M.A.O. College at Aligarh which later developed into the Aligarh Muslim University.

20. 29 Jan. 1990 100 paise. Sukhana Shramdan, Chandigarh is a touching story of how the agencies, governmental, non-governmental as well as citizens, joined hands to save the lake from extinction. The Sukhna Lake, centerpiece of Chandigarh, was created in 1958 AD spread over an area of 565 acres. From its inception it started silting as a result of which by April 1988 AD, the water cover reduced to a third of the original area and unwanted vegetation grew on the dry bed. By May, 1988, one could walk across the 'Lake' before the onset of the monsoon. Transcending barriers of caste, creed, religion, social and economic status, people from all walks of life participated in this noble venture of saving the lake from extinction, signifying the underlying feature of Indian culture - Unity in Diversity.
21. 26 Sep. 1970 20 paise. Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820 - 1891 AD) - social reformer and great educationist.
22. 15 Aug. 1962 15 np. Ramabai Ranade (1862 - 1924 AD) - social reformer and champion of women's education and sufferings.
23. 03 Jul. 1974 25 paise. Utkal Gourab Madhusudan Das (1848 - 1934 AD) - social reformer.
24. 26 Oct. 1989 60 paise. Pandita Ramabai (1858 - 1920 AD) - a social reformer, a champion for the emancipation of women and a pioneer in education. In 1896 AD, during a severe famine Ramabai toured the villages of Maharashtra with a caravan of bullock carts and rescued thousands of out-caste children, child widows, orphans and other destitute women and brought them to the shelter of Mukti and Sharada Sadan.
25. 09 Dec. 1993 100 paise. Dr. Dwarakanath Kotnis (1910 AD to 1942 AD). During the Japanese aggression of China , served the wounded soldiers and Chinese in 1939 AD. Also taught medicine to China's youth.
26. 24 Sep. 1976 25 paise. Maharaja Agrasen. An enlightened king of ancient India who believed in equality of men and equal opportunity.
27. 09 May 1992 100 paise. Henry Gidney (1877 - 1942 AD) - one of the great leaders of the Anglo-Indian community had produced. He carried out an unrelenting struggle for his community.
28. 14 Oct. 1987 650 paise. Rotary International - Asia Regional Conference - New Delhi (Estd. 1905 AD)- a worldwide organisation serving through Rotary clubs. The four avenues of its service are club service, community service, vocational service and international service.
29. 01 May 1979 25 paise. Rajashri Shahu Chhatrapati (1874 - 1922 AD) - a great social reformer.
30. 04 Sep. 1977 25 paise. Ganga Ram (1851 - 1927 AD) - founder of the Ganga Ram Trust and Hospital in Delhi. A great social reformer. He was against dowry and child marriage and advocated widow re-marriage.
31. 15 Apr. 1980 30 paise. Keshab Chandra Sen (1838 - 1884 AD) - social and religious reformer, writer and journalist.
32. 30 Dec. 1986 100 paise. St. Marha's Hospital Bangalore.

Theme 23 : Writers, Poets, Philosophers and Thinkers

Plate No. 25.

1. 14 Dec. 1970 20 paise. Maharshi Valmiki. Sage Valmiki is the reputed author of one of the most popular and world's greatest epic in Sanskrit - Ramayana. He is stated to

be a contemporary of Rama, the hero of his epic. Ramayana is called the 'Adikavya'- the first poetry in classical sanskrit and in its present form is dated variously by scholars as between 6th century B.C. - 3rd century B.c. The date of Valmiki is unknown and uncertain.

2. 26 Dec. 1990 100 paise. Bhakta Kanaka Das (1488-1578 AD) was a mystic saint and singer of Karnataka. He was a sheperd by birth and a born poet. His teachings reached every heart and every home on the wings of music.
3. 15 Feb. 1960 15 np. Thiruvalluvar (circa 2nd Century B.C.). He was the author of "Tirukkural" in Tamil which is one of the greatest ethical codes ever created by man.

"Just as water in the shade is sweet, so lover's quarrels become sweet only to those really who are in love."

- Thiruvalluvar.

4. 16 Oct. 1972 20 paise. Yogi Vemana (17th century AD) - a Telugu poet and philosopher.
5. 30 May 1967 15 paise. Narasimha Mehta, Gujarati poet and saint whose verses inspired Mahatma Gandhi.
6. 24 May 1975 25 paise. Ram Charit Manas. Hindi translation of the sacred epic Ramayana from classical sanskrit by Goswami Tulsidas (1543-1633 AD).
7. 01 Oct. 1952 4 1/2 As. Ghalib. Asad Ullah Beg Khan, famous in later life as Mirza Ghalib (1797 - 1869 AD). His contributions to Urdu literature are unique and unsurpassed.
8. 01 Oct. 1952 2 As. Mira. Princess Mira Bai (1498-1546 AD) a mystic poetess.
9. 24 Oct. 1975 50 paise. Ameer Khusrav (1253 AD) Persian musicologist, mystic, poet and writer.
10. 02 Feb. 1963 1 Re. Kalidasa's Shankuntala (Overprint) writing a love letter to her beloved Dushyanta. Kalidasa was foremost poet and dramatist in Sanskrit literature.
11. 01 Oct. 1952 1 A. Goswami Tulsidas (1543 -1633 AD).
12. 01 Oct. 1952 9 pies. Kabir (b. 1440 AD). Poet and saint.
13. 01 Oct. 1952 4 As. Surdas (15-16th Century AD) - Saint and mystic poet.
14. 17 Feb. 1969 20 paise. Ghalib.
15. 15 Sep. 1976 25 paise. Sarad Chandra Chatterji (1876-1938 AD) - one of the distinguished writers of India. Sarat Chandra Chatterji, one of the greatest writers India has produced. He spent his boyhood and youth at Bhagalpur. Sarat Chandra passed the Entrance Examination in 1894 AD but could not appear at the next higher examination as he could not pay the examination fees. For a while he wandered in the guise of a 'Sanyasi'. In 1903 AD he went to Burma where he secured the job of a clerk in the office of the Examiner of Accounts. Sarat Chandra had begun to write when he was barely 18 but his earliest works were lost to oblivion. Some of his early works that survived and brought him fame later were first published in a manuscript magazine "Alo (re-named "Chhaya"). One of his early works 'Baradidi' which was serialised in a leading magazine, "Bharati" became immensely popular. The story 'Ramer Sumati' which he wrote from Rangoon created a sensation and readers in Bengal realised that they had a new literary genius in their midst. When Sarat Chandra's reputation as a writer got firmly established in Bengal, his friends urged him to resign his job at Rangoon and adopt literature as a profession. He returned to Calcutta, a novelist by profession. After living in Bajeshibpur, Sarat Chandra Chatterji moved to Samta Ber in Howrah district where he lived in peace

and security. His long struggle with poverty was over and he was back amongst his own people. There was a ceaseless flow of stories and novels from his pen. Sarat Chandra Chatterji became one of the most distinguished writers of India. Some of his great works are 'Palli Samaj', 'Charitraheen', 'Shesh Prashna', 'Pather Dabi', 'Debadas' and 'Shrikanta' in four parts. Many of his works have been translated into various languages. He poured into his novels and stories the varied experience he had gathered in different parts of India and Burma. The most remarkable qualities of Sarat Chandra's art are directness and a sense of intimacy. His descriptions of rural life, of human joy and suffering appear to have been drawn from first-hand knowledge. He excelled in depiction of the plight of the downtrodden and the intricate feelings and emotions of the women folk. The language of his novels is sweet, lucid and appealing to human heart.

16. 07 May 1961 15 np. Rabindranath Tagore (1861 - 1941 AD). The Swedish Academy selected his work "Gitanjali" for the Nobel Award in literature for 1913 AD. His song "Jana gana mana" has been adopted as the National Song.

17. 31 July 1980 30 paise. Premchand (1880-1936 AD) - the great literateur and famous novelist and story writer.

18. 21 Apr. 1988 60 paise. Mohammed Iqbal - Great urdu poet. Mohammad Iqbal was born on 9th November 1877 AD at Sialkot to Seikh Noor Muhammed and Imam Bibi. After early education under the famous scholar Sayyid Mir Hasan, he studied at the Government College, Lahore, obtaining a Master's degree in Philosophy (1899 AD). In 1905 AD he left for England for higher studies at Trinity College, Cambridge. Simultaneously he studied Law and was called to the Bar in 1908 AD and obtained his Ph.D from the Munich University. In 1908 AD he returned to Lahore and started practising as a lawyer, which was never a very lucrative practice. Before 1905 AD he had begun writing in Urdu mainly on national topics or nature. Following tradition, he took the famous Urdu poet Nawab Mirza Khan Dagh as his poetic mentor. His natural propensity turned towards poems (Nazm). Meanwhile, his thoughts moved to Islam and the problems of the Islamic world, the ills of whose body-politic he felt was due to an un-Islamic way of life. He took to writing more in Persian than Urdu. Out of these ideas came his 'Falsafa-e-Khud' the philosophy of self. In 1915 AD he first published his full length 'mathnavi', 'Asrar-i-Khudi' (The Secret of Self) expounding the theory that man was the culmination of the evolutionary process. His second 'mathnavi', 'Rumuz-i-Bekhudi' was a complement to the earlier one, elaborating it and exhorting Muslims to realise the duties imposed on them by the Quran. His Urdu poems were published in a volume, 'Bang-i-Dara'. In 1922 AD the British Government conferred a knighthood on him in recognition of his literary eminence. In Persian and Urdu poetry, few can match the depth of his thought, command of language and imagery. His works include 'Zubur-i-Ajam', 'Javed Nameh', Pas chih Bayed Kard', 'Piyam-e-Mashrig', 'Bal-i-Jibrael' and 'Zarb-i-Kalim'. With his emphasis on the universal approach for the quest of the Perfect Man harmoniously uniting all man's creative faculties, Iqbal's poetry cannot be confined to one religion or one country. Iqbal's thought has political, social,cultural, and artistic aspects. In the domain of poetry, he exhibited a variety of direction and style, reflecting on a large number of subjects, ranging from nature poetry to abstract philosophical ideas; composing in 'mathnavi', 'ghazal' and 'rubai' forms, and using both Urdu and Persian as the vehicle of expression. In disseminating his thought he used both prose and poetry, and showed multifarious influences, both oriental and occidental, classical and modern.

19. 31 Dec. 1990 200 paise. Jnaneshwari a great spiritual epic is regarded as the most outstanding work of Dhyaneshwar (circa 13th century AD).

20. 05 Apr. 1966 15 paise. Kambar (9th century AD) His monumental work in Tamil is the great epic "Kamba Ramayana."
21. 11 May 1967 15 paise. Basaveswara (13th century AD) Kannada religious teacher and social reformer.
22. 09 Nov. 1970 20 paise. Sant Namdeo (1270-1350 AD) - great saint and poet. In its long history covering about three thousand years, Hinduism as we know it has produced an almost unbroken succession of saints and religious leaders. In this galaxy of holy men and women the name of Namdeo occupies a pre-eminent place. A succession of savants who believed in the primacy of the way of "Bhakti" or complete surrender as a means of attaining spiritual liberation lived and preached in Maharashtra during the early centuries of the second millennium A.C. Dnyanadev, Gora Kumbhar, Janabai and Chokhamela were among this distinguished lineage who not only attained spiritual perfection themselves but helped to spread the holy tenets among the masses. Namdeo was one of the earliest and most famous of these leaders of popular religion. He spent most of his days at Pandharpur, singing 'abhangas' or religious poems and spreading the message of God. Namdeo was also the originator of the 'Kirtan' tradition, the practice of singing the glories of God. This tradition is still a recognised mode of worship and is found in all parts of the country.
23. 14 Aug. 1975 50 paise. Saint Arunagirinathar (14th century AD) - a great Tamil saint and poet.
24. 19 Sep. 1985 100 paise. Swami Haridas - saint and poet.
25. 11 Nov. 1960 15 np. Subramania Bharati (1882 -1921 A.D). A renouned Tamil poet.
26. 06 Aug. 1976 25 paise. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan (born 1904 AD) famous Hindi poetess. Subhadra Kumari Chauhan, the Hindi poetess who combined in her personality the patriotic fire of Joan of Arc and the lyricism of Meera. She wrote highly inspiring patriotic poems lime "Senani Ka Swagat", "Veero Ka Kaisa ho Vasant", and "Jhansi Ki Rani" - in Hindi literature. The first collection of verse "Mukul" was awarded the first 'Seksaria Prize' in 1931 AD followed by another on her collection of short stories "Bikhare Moti" in 1933 AD. She also wrote poems for children. The other collections of her short stories are "Unmadini" (1934 AD) and the posthumously published "Seedhe-Sade Chitra".
27. 01 Jan. 1969 20 paise. Bankim Chandra Chatterji (1838-1894 AD) - the great novelist and patriot. Author of nationalist song 'Bande Mataram" which occurs in his novel 'Anand Math.' Even today, the popularity of this song is second only to that of the National Anthem.
28. 03 July 1974 25 paise. Maithili Sharan Gupta (1886-1964 AD) - an eminent Hindi poet and author of the great epic "Saket".
29. 16 Sep. 1991 200 paise. Mahadevi Verma (1907-1987 AD) - one of the greatest Hindi poetess of all times.
30. 09 Apr. 1993 100 paise. Rahul Sankrutyayan - Maha Pandit Rahul Kankrityayan was born on April 9, 1893 AD at Pandaha, Azamgarh and was christened as Kedar Nath Pandey. At an early age of 5, the young Kedar Nath was sent to an Urdu Madrasa and it was here that he came across a tale 'Khorai Ki Natiza' which influenced him deeply. In addition the couplet below:

Go wandering -life is short O thou who is missing it.
Even if you live long, what about the youth".

influenced his young mind deeply and thus was born his desire to roam. The young Kedar left his home at various stages of his life, matrimony notwithstanding. The desire for freedom made him adopt a life of ascetism which drew him to the study of 'Vedanta' and Hindu scriptures and he even became a Mahanta at Parsa in Bihar. After a short stint with the Arya Samaj, he became a part of the 'Arya Musafir Vidyalaya', where he learnt Sanskrit and Arabic and read the scriptures of various creeds prevalent in India of the early 19th century. The Russian Revolution inspired Kedar to join politics and he became an active participant in the Non-cooperation Movement launched by Gandhiji. After being jailed for his political activities, he took part in the Kisan Satyagraha in Bihar in 1939 AD. In the intergennum, Kedar embarked on various travels which took him to the distant lands of Ceylon where he embraced Buddhism and was re-christened, Rahul Sankrityayan. His greatest claim to fame was his unrelenting search for Buddhist scriptures which took him to far away Tibet four times, as a result of which he brought back to India 21 mule-loads of Tibetan literature. He also travelled to various countries of Europe, Far East and Russia. During the year 1944 AD to 1947 AD he worked as a Professor of Sanskrit and Pali in Russia. Rahul Sankrityayan has written and translated over 123 books in Hindi and has been awarded the 'Padma Bhushan', during the last stages of his life.

31. 04 Sep. 1975 25 paise. Mir Anees (1803-1874 AD) - brilliant urdu poet and author of "Marsias' considered to be the classic epic in urdu poetry.

32. 24 Aug. 1991 100 paise. Jainmuni Mishrimalji (1891-1984 AD) - a great saint, an extempore poet and vigorous orator.

33. 16 Sep. 1991 200 paise. Jaishankar Prasad (1890 - 1937 AD) - an eminent Hindi poet and dramatist.

Plate 24 : Art and Artists

Plate No. 26.

1. 31 Oct. 1981 35 paise. Bellary Raghava (1880 - 1946 AD) Tadipatri Raghavacharlu, popularly known as Bellary Raghava was a renowned actor. He was equally at home in plays in English, Telugu, Kannada and Hindi; his three main centres of activity were Bellary, Bangalore and Madras. in 1927 AD, he went to England and took part in English dramas with Laurance Olivier and Charles Laughton. Among his admirers were Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore and Bernard Shaw.

2. 12 Dec. 1986 100 paise. Tansen. In the history of Hindustani music, there is no name so fascinating, and so haloed by the story of countless legends as Tansen's. Born in the early seventeenth century to a brahmin poet, Makarand Pande and his wife with the blessings of a sufi fakir, Muhammed Ghaus, the child was known by various names, both hindu and muslim. It was Maharaja Ramniranjan of Gwalior who conferred on him the name of Miyan Tansen, a name, by which he is best known. Tansen had his musical education from the great ascetic scholar, musician and composer, Swami Haridas of Brindaban. Soon after he became an accomplished musician, Tansen was made the Court-musician by the Rewa ruler, Ramsinghji. Before long, Tansen's fame spread far and wide and Emperor Akbar himself called him to his Court and made him one of the 'Nine Jewels' of the Imperial Court. The art of Hindustani music reached its highest watermark in Tansen's time. It was he who perfected and popularised the dignified and difficult Dhrupads. Tansen's music followers and descendants sang only Dhrupads and are known as the Seniya Gharana. He had as his contemporaries a brilliant galaxy of musicians and poets like Naik Biju, Tulsidas, Ramdas, Meerabai, Surdas and others. He was not only the greatest Dhrupad singer but a great musician and skilled composer as well. Abul Fazal wrote : "For a thousand years, there has not been a musician like Tansen". Tansen is also remembered as the author of two very valuable books "Sangeet-Sara" and "Ragmala". Tansen's entire family and the Emperor himself were at his beside, during his last hours, in Gwalior. The humble memorial to this great genuis is Gwalior is today the pilgrimage spot of all music-lovers.

3. 06 Jan. 1961 15 np. Tyagaraja (1767 - 1827 AD) is reckoned as one of the "Trinity" of Carnatic Music (Southern School). He composed many songs in praise of Lord Rama in Telugu.
4. 21 Dec. 1985 100 paise. Syama Shastri (1762 - 1827 AD) is reckoned as one of the "Trinity" of Carnatic Music. The other two being Thyagaraja and Muthuswami Dikshitar. He was educated in Sanskrit and Telugu. His compositions are in praise of Goddess Kamakshi and Minakshi and are in Sanskrit, Telugu and Tamil.
5. 18 Mar. 1976 25 paise. Muthuswami Dikshitar (1775 - 1835 AD). A study of Dikshitar's compositions show that he had an insatiable thirst for visiting temples and singing the praise of deities enshrined there. There is hardly any song which does not describe a temple, the deity worshipped there and the traditions and customs prevalent locally. To him a rag was not a mere scale or assembly of swaras but a divine form, beautiful and adorable.
6. 29 Oct. 1991 100 paise. Puppet - Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya (1903 - 1988 A.D) - Handicrafts.
7. 26 Sep. 1978 25 paise. Uday Shankar (1900 - 1977 AD) As a dancer, he was original, as a choreographer idealistic. He was the first person to present an Indian ballet with an Indian theme, accompanied by a musical score in which no foreign instrument was used. Uday Shankar with his troupe toured extensively in Europe, America and other parts of the world. He can be called one of the great cultural ambassadors of our age. His main achievement was the blending of the Indian classical style with the Western ballet and various folk dances. Much of his inspiration came from Indian mythology and temple sculpture, which he re-created with his own imaginative ideas about dress decor and music in its many dimensions. Notable examples of this synthesis were his famous items like " Kartikeya, "Indra"and "Labour and Machine".
8. 27 Dec. 1987 60 paise. Rukmini Devi
9. 15 Oct. 1978 25 paise. Vallathol Narayana Menon (1878 - 1958 AD). The design of the stamp depicts in portrait of the poet Vallathol Narayana Guru Menon. The performance arts of Kerala, especially Kathakali and Mohinattam which were gradually dying out, were encouraged by him. To give the arts its rightful place he founded the "Kerala Kalamandalam" at Cheruthuruthy in 1927 AD. It is now a world famous institution, imparting training in classical dance forms. Both in literature and fine arts, Vallathol is one of the best representatives of the cultural renaissance of modern India.
10. 17 Sep. 1982 200 paise. The painting by Raza entitled, "Bindu".
11. 15 Dec. 1989 100 paise. The Bombay Art Society was founded in 1888 AD for the purpose of encouraging artists, especially amateurs and of educating the public in the appreciation of art. The formation of the Society was the result of a joint endeavour of a few Indians and Britishers, who used to practice drawing and painting as a hobby.
12. 01 Sep. 1961 15 np. Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande (1860 - 1938 AD). Famous composer of Indian Classical Music.

13. 29 Apr. 1971 20 paise. Raja Ravi Varma (1848 - 1906 AD) founded a new school of painting and is considered as one of the foremost artists of India. In 1868 AD, Theodore Jenson, a famous England painter visited Travancore State and young Ravi Varma was introduced to him. Jenson greatly admired the manner in which the youthful artist manipulated light and shade on the face of his subjects and Jenson opened to young Ravi Varma the immense possibilities in the realm of oil colours. Ravi Varma participated in the exhibition held in Madras in 1873 AD. He won the first prize in that exhibition and from that day his success was assured. His work was acclaimed at the Poona Exhibition of 1880 and also at the exhibitions held in Vienna and Chicago in 1892 AD. The stamp depicts one of his famous paintings "Damayanti and the Swan" along with the portrait of the artist.
14. 21 July 1973 30 paise. V.D. Paluskar (1872 - 1931 AD), the eminent musician from Maharashtra.
15. 02 Mar. 1982 35 paise. 12th Anniversary of Sir J.J. School of Art, Bombay was founded in 1857 AD with the munificent donation from Sir Jamshedji Jeejibhoy the first Baronet.
16. 16 Apr. 1967 15 paise. Nandlal Bose (1882 - 1966 AD) was one of the greatest masters to appear in the wake of the Bengal Renaissance. He led the art movement in India in the voyage of rediscovery, and in the process, spanned the gulf between the traditional and the modern. Nandlal's early paintings were in wash. Later he worked in tempera. His mastery of the Indian tradition is reflected in the 'Ramayana scenes', 'Nala-Damayanti', 'Agni', etc., while his own individualistic style is seen in 'Jagai Madhai' and 'Gokul Brata'. His paintings on Puranic themes support even today the reputation he enjoys. At Santiniketan, one sees the attempts at a bolder technique, the formal composition is subordinated to the weilding of the brush, as in 'Basant' (Spring), 'Dupur' (Midday) and 'Sandhya' (Dusk). Side by side, tradition is kept alive in works like 'Kurukshetra', 'Arjun', etc. The years 1930 - 40 AD were full of vigour and vitality; 'Svarna Kumbha' (Golden pot), 'Landscape' and 'Savarir Pratiksha' (Waiting of Savarir reval sculpturesque strength, simplicity and architectural qualities.
17. 31 July 1991 650 paise. Cartoon by Keshav Shankar Pilla (1902 - 1989 AD), popularly known as 'Shankar' was one of India's celebrated cartoonists. He was the recipient of numerous awards.
18. 17 Sep. 1982 300 paise. M.F. Hussain's painting "Between the Spider and the Lamp".
19. 17 Sep. 1968 20 paise. Gajendranath Tagore (1867 - 1938 AD) gave expression to the new awakening in the field of painting.
20. 27 July 1978 50 paise. Indian Museum - Kalpadruma is a unique 2nd century B.C. sculpture. Discovered by the great archaeologist, Sir Alexander Cunningham, it was once the capital of a column at Besnagar. Vidisha district in Madhya Pradesh, and is now in the Indian Museum, Calcutta. It is believed to represent the wish-fulfilling tree of ancient tradition offering in profusion all the' Nidhis'- treasures such as sankha - conch shell, padma - lotus, two vases pouring forth coins and four purses with strings tied round their necks. The column, of which this capital was a part, may have adorned a shrine of Kubera, the God of Wealth.
21. 27 July 1978 25 paise. The stamp depicts the 'Airavat' (early 19th century) from the Kuchchh Museum, Bhuj. The Airavat is associated with the Vedic Indra as his mount. Indra features in the ancient lore not only of Hinduism but also of Buddhism and Jainism. The figure of this mythological white elephant with seven trunks, mounted on wheels, is from a Jain temple in the Gujarat region, which is well known for wood carvings and wooden architecture.

22. 03 Jan. 1977 200 paise. 16th International Film Festival of India with its Peacock Award has the distinction of being one of the seven major international film festivals in the world and is recognised by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations, Paris (FAIFP). The motto of the International Film Festival, ' Vasudhaiva Kutumbam' means "the entire world is one family".
23. 30 May 1989 60 paise. 75 Years of Indian Cinema. India is among the earliest countries in the world to have adopted the cinema. Within 6 months of public showing of, "Cinematographe" of Lumiere Brothers to British, Russian and American audiences, the people of Bombay saw this new wonder show at Watson's Hotel, Bombay. Very soon, the great Indian entrepreneur Dhundiraj Govind Phalke (popularly known as Dadasaheb Phalke) successfully produced the First Indian story film " RAJA HARISHCHANDRA' in 1913 AD overcoming enormous obstacles. In the 80 years of its existence ie., by 1994 AD, Indian cinema has produced the largest number of feature films in the world (about 850 to 900 every year).

24. 07 Aug. 1971 20 paise. Abhisarika by Abanindranath Tagore.

25. 30 Dec. 1993 100 paise. Nargis Dutt - a legendary figure as a film artist and social worker.

26. 27 July 1978 100 paise. The stamp depicts the two sides of a Kushan Gold Coin of 1st century AD from the National Museum, New Delhi. In the early centuries of Christian era, a branch of Yueh-Chi tribe from Central Asia, the Kushans, established a powerful line of rulers in North-Western India. The coins of this Dynasty, particularly of Kanishka and Huvishka, have survived in remarkably large numbers and form an important source of their history. The obverse of this coin shows King Kanishka wearing a cloak and helmet. He holds in his right hand an elephant goad and in his left a spear. The inscription reads 'Shaonano Shao Kanishki Kushano' (Kanishka, the Kushan, King of Kings,). The reverse depicts Lord Shiva with four arms holding respectively a vase, a drum, a trident and an antelope and bears the inscription 'Oesho' ('Shiva').

27. 11 Jan. 1994 1100 paise. 600 paise. Satyajit Ray renowned film producer and director. Recipient of many awards.

28. 27 July 1978 200 paise. Salarjung Museum - Two Daggers. The stamp shows two jewelled arms now in the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad. The dagger and knife are believed to belong to the Mughal Emperor of the 17th century. The handles of both the dagger and the knife are made of white jade encrusted with flowers of ruby and leaves of emerland. The pendant attached to the dagger is shaped as a flower in white jade and encrusted with floral motif carved out of rubies and emeralds.

Theme 25 : Freedom Fighters

Plate No. 27.

1. 13 Apr. 1969 20 paise Jallianwala Bagh - Massacre of Amritsar. In 1919 AD, the British Military Officer Gen. Dyer ordered his troops to fire on a peaceful gathering of about 2500 people killing 379 people and wounding 1200.

2. 15 Aug. 1957 90 np Centenary of First Freedom Struggle Indian Mutiny or Sepoy Mutiny broke out on 10 May 1857 AD. It is day that the First War of Independence was waged by nameless soldiers, fighters, warriors, farmers and women who united leaders like Bahadur Shah Zafar (Fig.35), Rani Lakshmi Bai (Fig.7), Tatia Tope (Fig.9), Nana Saheb (Fig.11), Begum Hazrat Mahal (Fig.10) and Mangal Pandey (Fig.25) to wage war against a mighty foreign empire.

3. 23 Oct. 1977 25 paise. Kittur Rani Channamma (1778 - 1829 AD). The Warrior Queen of Kittur who wages a heroic freedom struggle against the British.
4. 19 Oct. 1968 20 paise. Bhagat Singh (1907 - 1931 AD). This martyr was born in a Sikh family. Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Datta hurled bombs down from the visitor's gallery to the floor of the Assembly in Delhi on an April day of 1929 AD. Their daring acts took the country by storm and shook the prestige of the mighty British Empire. Bhagat Singh was hanged on 23rd March 1931 AD.
5. 15 July 1974 50 paise. Tipu Sultan (1750 - 1799 AD). A great patriot of Country's freedom. He became martyr while fighting with the British who were at that time trying tos bring the country under subjugation.
6. 10 Dec. 1987 60 paise. Veer Narayan Singh (1795 - 1858 AD). A revolutionary freedom fighter of Mahanadi Valley who was sentenced to death by the British on 22 January 1858 AD.
7. 15 Aug. 1957 15 np Centenary of First Freedom Struggle. Rani Lakshmi Bai.
8. 09 May 1966 15 np Gopal Krishna Gokhale - a great freedom fighter.
9. 10 May 1984 50 paise Indian Freedom Struggle- Tatya Tope. In May 1857 AD when the political storm was gaining momentum, he won over the India troops of the East India Company, stationed at Kanpur, established Nana Saheb's authority and became the Commander-in-Chief of his revolutionary forces.
10. 10 May 1984 50 paise. Indian Freedom Struggle - Begum Hazrat Mahal. Wife of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah of Lucknow, (now in Uttar Pradesh). Hazrat Mahal was also known as the Begum of Avadh. In addition to being gifted with irresistible physical charms, she had an inborn genius for organisation and command. After her husband had been sent away in exile to Calcutta, she with the cooperation of zealous band of supporters like Sarafaddaulah, Maharaja Bal Krishna, Raja Jai Lal and above all Mammon Khan worked incessantly to revive the fortunes of Avadh. She seized control of Lucknow in association with the revolutionary forces. She was driven from pillar to post, but she made her retreat with fortitude. She rejected with contempt the promises of allowance and status and held out to her by the British against whom her hatred was unrelenting. In the end after bearing misfortune and misery throughout the period of resistance, she found asylum in Nepal where she died in 1879 AD.
11. 10 May 1984 50 paise. Indian Freedom Struggle - Nana Sahib. He was well educated. He studied Sanskrit and was known for his deep religious nature. On the death of the last Peshwa, Baji Rao_II, in 1851 AD, the Company's Government stopped the annual pension and the title. Nana Saheb's appeal to the Court of Directors was not accepted. This made him hostile towards the British rulers. when the First War of Independence broke out, he assumed leadership of the mutineers in Kanpur. After seizing Kanpur, which had a small British power in India. Kanpur was recaptured by the British under the General Havelock and the last serious engagement (16th July 1857 AD) resulted in a total rout of Nana's forces. Nana rode away to an unknown destination in Nepal in 1859 AD and probably perished in the jungle.
12. 04 Sep. 1963 15 np Dr. Dadabhoy Naoroji.

13. 23 July 1956 2 As Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak (1856 - 1930 AD). A pioneer of India's freedom struggle. He organised the "Home Rule Movement;" and gave the slogan "Swaraj (political independence) is my birth right and I shall have it."

14. 04 November, 1970 20 paise. Jamnalal Bajaj - an industrialist and ardent patriot.

15. 02 Oct. 1969 5 Rs Gandhi Centenary (1869 - 1948 AD). Mahatma Gandhi concentrated his whole life for the political freedom of India. He launched several civil dis-obedience movements by non-violent means protesting against injustice of the British Government. He served several imprisonments and was murdered by a religious fanatic in 1948 AD.

16. 10 Dec. 1978 25 paise. Mohammad Ali Jauhar (1878 - 1931 AD). A product of M.A.O. College (now known as Aligarh Muslim University). He was one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islamia and its first Vice-Chancellor. An eminent Journalist and fearless critic of British Government. At the Round Table Conference held in London in November, 1930 AD, he said : *I would even prefer to die in a foreign country so long as it is a free country, and if you do not give us freedom in India you will have to give me a grave here."* Mohammed Ali remained true to his words. He died in London on January 1931 AD, and was buried in Jerusalem.

17. 31 Dec. 1993 100 paise. India National Army (INA) Golden Jubilee. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose (Born 1897 AD) inspired the youths of the country who believed in winning friends by using force should it be necessary. He managed to escape from the strict security of the British Government kept at his and reached Japan via Kabul and some European countries. In Japan, thousands of Indian Prisoners of War rallied around him. He formed the Indian national Army.

18. 15 Nov. 1983 50 paise. Acharya Vinoba Bhave (1895 - 1982 AD). He was one of the moving spirits of the Nagpur Flag Satyagraha. In April 1951 AD, he started Bhoodan Movement, with a view to bringing about fundamental social and economic changes in society lb y peaceful means. The movement began by way of gifts of land to be distributed among the landless, later developing into voluntary renunciation of ownership of land in favour of village communities - Gramdan. More than four million acres of land were collected in Bhoodan and around 18,000 villages shad been declared Gramdan or common ownership within 15 years of the launching of the movement.

19. 06 May 1961 15 np Motilal Nehru (1865 - 1928 AD). A patriot and freedom fighter.

20. 16 Oct. 1972 20 paise T. Prakasam (1872 - 1957 AD) - A journalist and freedom fighter.

21. 28 Jan. 1965 15 paise. Lala Lajpat Rai (1865 -1928 AD). Having hit by the Police while leading agitation against the political reforms proposed by Simon Commission in 1928 AD, succumbed to his injuries.

22. 12 Jan. 1969 20 paise. Dr. Bhagwan Das (1869 - 1958 AD) - Many a times he was imprisoned for his political activities in the struggle for freedom.

23. 01 Oct. 1963 15 np Annie Besant (1847 - 1883 AD).

24. 21 Feb. 1984 50 paise Vasudev Balwant Phadke is regarded as the first revolutionary of modern India to take up arms to drive away the British. He was sentenced to transportation for life and was considered too dangerous to be kept even in the Andamans. He died in prison at Aden on 17th February 1883 AD.

25. 10 May 1984 50 paise. India's Freedom Struggle - Mangal Pandey.
26. 09 Aug. 1983 50 " India's Struggle for Freedom - AICC Quit India Resolution. The stamp depicts Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru at the All India Congress Committee Session 1942 AD.
27. 10 May 1984 50 paise. Mahadev Desai (1892 - 1942 AD), - a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi.
28. 28 Dec. 1983 50 paise. Surendranath Banarjee (1848 - 1925 AD) - a great freedom fighter.
29. 21 Oct. 1968 20 paise. Azad Hind Government. The establishment of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind or Free India was announced on 21st October 1943 AD. The proclamation was read by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Singapore. This historic event marked the beginning of the concluding phase in India's struggle for independence. It was generally thought earlier that independence was to be given to India by somebody else. The Quit India Movement of 1942 AD and the formation of Azad Hind Government next year convinced the Indian people that Swaraj was indeed their birthright and nothing could really stop them from attaining their ultimate goal. There was no looking back thereafter till the dawn of August 15, 1947 AD. Azad Hind was thus the symbol of India's invincible aspiration for freedom. That aspiration was given a tangible form by the leadership and sacrifice of Netaji and his band of dedicated patriots in East Asia and elsewhere. The formation of the Indian National Army and its battles with the British Forces on India's Eastern front in 1944 AD served to remind the Indian people that the banner of India's fight for freedom was still aloft; and although her leaders had been incarcerated since 1942 AD, India's spirit could not be subdued. What was equally significant was that the Indian National Army became an embodiment of the oneness of India for it had in its ranks officers and men drawn from all parts of the country and from all communities. The story of Azad Hind began drastically with the disappearance from India of Netaji early in 1941 AD. He travelled to Germany where he spent about two years organising a Free India Army from out of the Indian prisoners of war held in Europe. The entry of Japan into the war in December 1941 AD brought the fighting to India's doorstep and gave a new opportunity to Netaji. Invited by the veteran revolutionary, Rash Behari Bose, Netaji arrived in Japan in June 1943 AD, after a ninety day submarine voyage full of peril and adventure. Events moved fast thereafter and a real government of free India emerged recognised by nine foreign powers and controlling a fighting force of its own, the Indian National Army. The Azad Hind Government also exercised physical dominion over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are integral parts of India. The fortunes of war turned, and the Japanese had to surrender to the Allies in August, 1945 AD. At this juncture, Netaji passed from the scene while on his last-known flight from Saigon. The Azad Hind Government outwardly came to an end, but its indomitable spirit lived on during land after the trials of I.N.A officers in Delhi. The magic words " Jai Hind" (Victory to India) are a living bequest of this glorious chapter in India's history in which Netaji played such a leading part.
30. 11 May 1989 60 paise. Asaf Ali (1888 - 1953 AD) - was a Nationalist. He was imprisoned on many occasions during the freedom movement.

31. 02 Oct. 1980 35 paise. Dandi March (se-tenent) - Gandhi marching to Dandi. 35 paise. Dandi March - Gandhi picking up handful of Salt at Dandi.
32. 23 Apr. 1984 50 paise. Baba Kanshi Ram.
33. 02 Oct. 1969 1 Re Gandhi Centenary.

Plate 28

34. 23 Mar. 1981 35 paise Homage to Martyrs.
35. 24 Oct. 1975 100 paise. Bahadur Shah Zafar 1775 - 1862 AD). A poet of considerable talent and the last of the Mughal Emperors in India. For his involvement in the Mutiny in 1857 AD, he was exiled to Burma by the British.
36. 09 Aug. 1983 15 paise. India's Struggle for Freedom. The stamp depicts the Martyr's memorial situated outside the Secretariat Building Patna of seven students who lost their lives in the Quit India Movement while attempting to hoist the National Flag.
37. 30 Dec. 1976 25 paise. Vande Mataram. - the patriotic song composed in 1875 AD by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee which became the anthem of resurgent Indian nationalism in pre-independence era and adopted as premier Indian National Song after independence.
38. 13 Apr. 1973 20 paise. Homage to Martyrs.
39. 13 Feb. 1964 15 np. Sarojini Naidu.
40. 02 Oct. 1969 20 paise Gandhi Centenary.
41. 23 Jan. 1964 55 paise. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
42. 19 Feb. 1971 20 paise. Acharya Narendra Deo.
43. 01 May 1969 20 paise. Nageswara Rao Pantulu(1867 - 1938 AD) - participated in the salt march with Mahatma Gandhi and popularised with much success the Gandhiji's political programme in Andhra Pradesh.
44. 23 Mar. 1989 60 paise. Shaheed Laxman Nayak. (1894 - 1943 AD). Took active part in Quit India Movement and was falsely implicated in a case of murder and was hanged to death on 29th March 1943 AD in Berhampur Jail.
45. 09 Sep. 1970 20 paise. Jatindranth Mukherjee (1879 - 1915 AD) - one of the heroes of the Nations's grim struggle for freedom. Fell mortally wounded by the police aided by Army in a pitched battle along with other handful of revolutionaries.
46. 28 Nov. 1977 25 paise. Senapati Bapat. (1880 -1967 AD) - revolutionary and freedom fighter. He spent nearly two decades in prison for his part in the freedom struggle.
47. 01 Aug. 1974 25 paise. Kamala Nehru (1899 - 1936 AD) - Wife of Jawaharlal Nehru, the freedom fighter and the first Prime Minister of India. Kamala Nehru was a sensitive freedom fighter.
48. 28 May 1970 20 paise. V.D. Savarkar. (1904 - 1966 AD). A born patriot and freedom fighter. He was against the division of India at the time of independence.
49. 02 Sep. 1970 20 paise. V.S. Srinivasa Sastri. (1869 - 1946 AD). Gokhale's follower and freedom fighter.
50. 31 Dec. 1992 100 paise. Pandit Ravishankar Shukla (1877 - 1956 AD). Influenced by Gandhiji worked to bring political awareness in whole of Madhya Pradesh.
51. 26 Jan. 1962 15 paise Bhikaiji Kama (1861 - 1936 AD). Influenced by Dadabhoy Naoroji, she carried on nationalistic activities ceaselessly.
52. 11 Aug. 1990 100 paise. Khudiram Bose. (1889 - 1908 AD) - Hailed as the first martyr of organised revolutionary movement for India's freedom struggle. He was

hanged on 11th August 1908 AD for having thrown a bomb at the carriage supposed to be carrying Kingsford, the unpopular Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta.

53. 02 Dec. 1985 50 paise. Kakasaheb Kalekar. (1885 - 1911 AD) - Revolutionary and freedom fighter.
54. 19 Oct. 1989 60 paise. Namakkal Kavignar. (1888 - 1972 AD). He was jailed for one year for his participation in Salt Satyagraha of 1930 AD.
55. 22 Mar. 1978 25 paise. Surjya Sen. (1894 - 1939 AD). A great patriot and revolutionary who organised the famous Chittagong Armoury Raid in 1930 AD for which he was hanged by the British Government in 1934 AD.
56. 30 May 1989 60 paise. Rao Gopal Singh. He was born in a ruling family of Kharwa near present day at Ajmer in Rajasthan. He was deeply committed to India's freedom struggle.
57. 31 July 1992 100 paise. Udham Singh. (1899 - 1940 AD). The massacre at Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, on the day of Baisakhi on 13th April 1919 AD by General Dyer changed the course of Sardar Udham Singh's life. He resoved to wreck vengeance on the perpetrators of this heinous crime, General Dyer, Sir Michael O'Dwyer the Lieutenant Governor, Punjab and Lord Zetland, Secretary of State of India. Sardar Udham Singh moved from one country to another country to shoot the murderers of his countrymen. He was arrested in 1928 AD and imprisoned for four years. He was released in 1932 AD. He reached London through Germany where he joined a training course to hoodwink his activities to trace General Dyer, Sir O'Dwyer and Lord Zetland. The third culprit General Dyer had already expired. After 21 years, it was on the 13th March 1940 AD when Sir Michael O'Dwyer and Lord Zetland had come to attend a meeting in the Caxton hall in London, that Sardar Udham Singh entered there with his revolver. Sardar Udham Singh gunned Sir Michael O'Dwyer down with his revolver. There was great panic and pandemonium in the hall. Sardar Udham Singh stood firm. he was chained. On April2, 1940 AD, when produced before the Magistrate, he said, *"I did the deed because Sir Michael O'Dwyer wanted to crush all our aspirations for freedom. I had been after him for full 21 years. I am happy that I have fulfilled my job. I am not afraid of death."* He was sentenced to death. He kissed the gallows smilingly and was hanged on the 31st July 1940 AD, in the Pantone Villa Jail, London.
58. 09 Aug. 1983 50 paise. India's Struggle for Freedom - Meera Behn (1892 - 1982 AD). Born in England became a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and dedicated her life to the service of India.
59. 31 Dec. 1987 60 paise. Pandit Hriday Nath Kunjru. (1887 - 1978 AD). Under the inspiration of Gokhale, he joined the Servants of India Society. As its President for 42 years, he contributed to public life. A liberal in pre-independence politics.
60. 22 Aug. 1987 60 paise. S. Satyamurti. A martyr for freedom. Took active part in non-cooperation movement. Underwent imprisonment several times. In 1942 AD, while returning from CWC meeting in Bombay when the historic "Quit India" resolution was adopted, he was arrested. Broken by the privatisation of the jail, he died on 28th March 1943 AD.
61. 23 Dec. 1985 50 paise. Master Tara Singh. (1885 - 1967 AD) -A veteran Akali leader and freedom fighter.
62. 14 Aug. 1986 50 paise. Bhim Sen Sachar. (1894 - 1978 AD). Took part in civil disobedience movement and underwent imprisonment in 1940 AD.
63. 17 June 1987 60 paise. Dr. Kailas Nath Katju. (1887 - 1968 AD). A lawyer and freedom fighter. He was imprisoned several times.

64. 18 Oct. 1983 50 paise. Hemu Kalani. Hemu Kalani was born at Sukkur in Sindh (now in Pakistan), on 23rd March 1923 AD. In 1942 AD, when Mahatma Gandhi gave the call *"Quit India"* and the slogan *"Do or Die"*, Hemu Kalani also joined the mass movement. There was such active participation from the people of Sind province in the movement that the British Rulers had to send special troops consisting of European batallions. When Hemu Kalani came to know that these troops and ammunition would be arriving in Sind by a railway train passing through his town, he decided to derail the train by removing the fishplates from the railway track. He and his friends were severely handicapped in not having any tools for loosening the nuts and bolts and for removing the fishplates. Time was also against them. Hemu, however, did not give up. He inspired his friend to loosen the nuts and bolts with the help of indigenous ropes and they started on this job. However, before they could complete it, they were seen by the British troops and Hemu, in his effort to save his friends, was caught. He was imprisoned and tortured to give out the names of his friends but he stubbornly refused to divulge any information. He was tried under the then prevailing martial law and sentenced to death. People of Sind petitioned for mercy to the Viceroy but the death sentence was upheld, unless Hemu turned an approver and gave information regarding his fellow revolutionaries. There was no question of Hemu's accepting these conditions and welcomed the impending death most cheerfully. This young freedom fighter and revolutionary was hung on 21st January 1943 AD.

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65. 24 Feb. 1979 25 paise. Bhai Paramanand. (1876 - 1947 AD) - eminent scholar, journalist and freedom fighter.
66. 04 Jan. 1964 15 np Utkalmani Pandit Gopabandhu Das. (1877 - 1928 AD) - joined the non-cooperation movement in 1921 AD and suffered several terms of imprisonment.
67. 24 Oct. 1975 25 paise V.K. Krishna Menon. (1896 - 1904 AD) freedom fighter, national leader and statesman.
68. 27 Sep. 1973 50 paise. Vithalbhai Patel. (born 1873 AD). A great indomitable fighter and statesman.
69. 01 Oct. 1990 100 paise. A.K. Gopalan. (1904 - 1977 AD). Took active part in Khilafat Movement.
70. 03 Nov. 1975 25 paise. Karmavir Nabin Chandra Bardola. (1875 - 1936 AD) - a great patriot and freedom fighter from Assam.
71. 24 Apr. 1989 60 paise. Bishnu Ram Medhi. (1888 - 1981 AD). Took active part in Non-cooperation Movement.
72. 05 Sep. 1972 20 paise. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai.(1872 - 1936 AD). Attracted by the freedom struggle, formed the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company having regular services between Tuticorin and Colombo.
73. 09 Aug. 1993 100 paise. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. - was a scion of a leading family belonging to the Mohamadzai Pathan tribe of village Uttamanzai in the Charsadda tehsil of Pishawar District, in the erstwhile North West Frontier province of British India. He was a devout Muslim and had equal regard for all other religions. Abdul Gaffar Khan's active nationalist career started in 1919 AD when he plunged into the agitation against the Rowlatt Bills. He took a leading part in the Khilafat agitation which was organised by him in his province. For a long time he served as a member of the Congress Working

Committee. Abdul Gaffar Khan took a leading part in all the Congress movements from 1920 to 1947 AD and spent about 14 years in jail during that period. During the Indo-British negotiations in 1946-47 AD, he vehemently opposed the partition of India.

74. 23 Apr. 1994 100 paise. Chandra Singh Garhwali. Indeed, the opportunity to do so presented itself only too soon. On 20th April, 1930 AD, a Civil Disobedience movement commenced in the North-West Frontier Province under the leadership of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and a programme of demonstration and Satyagrah was planned for 23rd April 1930 AD in Peshwar. The British Government in its eagerness to suppress this movement of the Pathans at any cost, decided to deploy the Army. Chandra Singh Garhwali and his men of the Garhwal Rifles resolved to resist any order of their British Commander to fire upon unarmed people. On 23rd April 1930 AD, thousands of Pathans had gathered in front of the Kissakhani Bazar Police Chowki in Peshwar and national flag was flying amidst. The men of the Garhwal Rifles stood before the Pathans, and hundreds of people were looking on from their houses and roof tops. The British Captain warned the non-violent demonstrators to disperse but it had no effect on them. When, in a rush of anger he shouted, *"Garhwali three rounds fire,"* an equally firm voice was heard saying *"Garhwali cease fire,"* and the Garhwali soldiers lowered their rifles to the ground. Chandra Singh Garhwali voice rang out once again to declare that they would not fire upon unarmed people even if the Captain were to shoot them down. It was an amazing display of courage. An extraordinary moment in the history of our freedom struggle. Chandra Singh Garhwali was arrested along with his men and sentenced to life imprisonment. All his property was seized. After spending a long period of 11 years, 3 months and 18 days in various jails, where he came in contact with many national leaders, he was finally released in 1941 AD. Imbued as he was with a deep sense of patriotism, Chandra Singh Garhwali continued to give leadership to the struggle for freedom and suffered further incarceration in jail.
75. 11 Nov. 1989 60 paise. Acharya Kriplani.
76. 29 Apr. 1992 100 paise. Vijay Singh Pathik. - a prolific writer, fearless journalist, revolutionary and freedom fighter.
77. 30 Dec. 1986 50 paise. Veer Surendra Sai.
78. 13 Feb. 1987 60 paise. Hakim Ajmal Khan (1864 - 1927 AD). Ajmal Khan played a positive role in the national freedom struggle and worked in close association with such national leaders as Mahatma Gandhi, Motilal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Swami Shardhanand, Ali Brothers, Annie Besant and many others. He emerged to be a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity. His involvement in the Independence struggle and Khilafar movement was total.
79. 26 Dec. 1986 50 paise. Alluri Seeta Rama Raju. Sri Alluri Seetarama Raju is remembered as a great son of India in the annals of Indian history of the early period of the freedom struggle. Born on 04th July 1897 AD, in a renowned kshatriya clan, he fought against the British. Soon Raju' plan of action took shape with vigour and quickness. On 22nd August, 1922 AD, Raju's Army raided Chintapalli Police Station, on 23rd, Krishnadevipeta police Station. and on 24th Rajavommangi and captured a good number of guns, bayonets and cartridges and swords. He set free the revolutionary, Veerayya Dora from jail. The British Army got alerted and platoons of Police and Army were sent to capture Seetarama Raju. At Peddavalasa, Raju attacked the British Army. They were defeated during this battle and suffered very heavy casualties and retreated. From that day onwards there was a regular warfare between Raju and the Britishers. Raju came out triumphant in all. Virtually for two years from 1922 to 1924 AD Seetarama Raju ruled over vast agency area and became a terror to the British rulers. Later British rulers deployed big contingents of Assam Rifles and others. Fighting a fierce battle, Raju laid down his life and attained martyrdom.

80. 08 Dec. 1989 60 paise. Balkrishna Sharma Navin.(1897 - 1960 AD). Took active part in freedom struggle.
81. 24 Dec. 1985 50 paise. Ravishankar Maharaj. (1884 - 1984 AD). Awakened the people of Gujarat against the oppressive foreign rule and suffered several terms of imprisonment.
82. 02 Jan. 1989 60 paise. Hare Krishna Mahtab. - Freedom fighter. He was imprisoned several times during freedom struggle.
83. 21 Mar. 1987 60 paise. M.N. Roy. - philosopher and revolutionary. His entire life was devoted to the pursuit of freedom, truth and justice.
84. 18 Mar. 1987 60 paise. Lala Hardayal. (1884 - 1939 AD). A revolutionary and freedom fighter.
85. 29 Dec. 1986 50 paise. Sagarmal Gopa. (1900 - 1946 AD) - a freedom fighter who was burnt alive in jail on 03rd April 1946 AD.
86. 10 Jan. 1985 50 paise. Narthar Vishnu Gadgil. (1896 - 1966 AD). A veteran freedom fighter and nationalist leader.
87. 10 Jan. 1994 100 paise. Dr. Sampurnanand was an eminent nationalist, freedom fighter, a great thinker with a socialist bent of mind, an able administrator and above all, a scholar of great merit.
88. 26 Aug. 1993 600 paise. Dadabhoi Naoroji - Centenary of election to the House of Commons.
89. 15 Dec. 1982 50 paise. Purushottam Das Tandon.
90. 22 July 1985 50 paise Nellie Sengupta - Jatindra Mohan Sengupta - foremost of the freedom fighters and nationalists.
91. 04 Oct. 1989 60 paise. Shyamji Krishna Verma. (1857 - 1957 AD). Took an active part in the Nationalist Movement.
92. 25 Apr. 1989 60 paise. T. Ramaswamy Chowdary.
93. 08 Mar. 1989 60 paise. B.G.Kher. (1888 - 1957 AD). Actively participated in all the movements of Gandhiji right from the Non-cooperation Movement of 1920 AD to the "Quit India" Movement of 1942 AD and in the process suffered imprisonment several times.
94. 21 July 1985 50 paise. Jairamdas Doulatram.
95. 13 Apr. 1989 60 paise. S.D. Kitchlew.(1888 - 1963. After initial education in India obtained the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Cambridge. Bar-at-Law from London, and Ph. D. from Germany. Returning to India. he soon established himself as a successful lawyer. He also took part in the social and political activities of the town and became the municipal Commissioner of Amritsar. In 1919 AD, he led the protest meeting against the Rowlatt Act at Jallianwala Bagh wherein hundreds were massacred. His arrest along with DR. Satyapal, at the meeting made him a legend even during his own lifetime. He was the guiding spirit behind the Naujiwan Bharat Sabha which created revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. He also took part in the All India Khilafat Movement. An impressive public speaker, he could rouse people to action. The Government, therefore, kept a vigilant eye on him, sometimes preventing him from addressing the public. The British Government in India placed him under arrest many times. In his speeches he frequently stressed the point that the future masters of the country were *" the peasants, tillers of the soil, labourers and the workers"*. He believed that India's freedom could only be attained through India's efforts and not with outside help. For him the partition of India was *"a surrender of nationalism in favour of communalism."* After independence he associated himself with the Communist party of India.
96. 28 Dec. 1992 100 paise. Madanlal Dhingra - is considered as a comet in the Revolutionary sky. On 1st July 1909 AD, Dhingra attended the anniversary meeting of the National Indian Association and Organisation of Indian loyalists. After the meeting ended, Curzon Willie was moving around among the audience and turned to Dhingra who fired at him and Curzon Willie died on the spot. Madan Lal Dhingra made no attempt to escape and remained absolutely calm as he was arrested and taken to Brixton

prison. His entire family associated itself from this act and a telegram was sent by his father to Lord Morley in this connection. Dhingra refused to offer any defence or to plead for mercy of any kind. During the preliminary hearing, he was asked for a death sentence. He was sentenced to death by the Sessions Court on 23rd July, and he graciously thanked the Judge. After Dhingra's death his statement which was banned appeared in the daily Irish and American papers. Madan Lal Dhingra's last wish was to have his cremation according to Hindu rites, and the sale proceeds of his belongings to be given to some national fund. This was not respected and his dead body was buried in a grave. Madan Lal Dhingra who blazed the trail of revolutionary movement in Punjab belonged to the glorious galaxy of its youthful and valiant sons like kartar Singh and other revolutionaries.

Plate No. 30

97. 26 Dec. 1967 15 paise. Rashbehari Basu (1886 - 1947 AD) - the great revolutionary. Organised the Indian National Army which fought the Allied Forces on the Eastern Frontiers of the country under the leadership of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

98. 25 Mar. 1982 15 np Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi. (1890 -1931 AD). A crusading journalist and freedom fighter.

99. 05 Nov. 1968 15 paise. Chittaranjan Das. (1870 - 1925 AD) - an eminent lawyer and freedom fighter.

100. 07 Nov. 1958 15 np Bipin Chandra Pal. (1858 - 1932 AD). - Scholar and freedom fighter..

101. 23 Apr. 1966 15 paise. Kunwar Singh. (1777 - 1858 AD) - a patriot and hero of the first war of Indian Independence, 1857 AD.

102. 13 Apr. 1989 60 paise. Rajkumari Amrit Kaur. She took part in Salt Campaign and was arrested in Bombay. She was convicted in 1937 AD on a charge of sedition . During the *"Quit India"* movement in 1942 AD, she led processions one of which was subjected to ruthless lathi charge in Simla.

103. 30 Sep. 1989 60 paise. Dr. P. Subbarayan.

104. 10 Sep. 1965 15 paise. Govind Vallabh Pant. (1887 - 1961 AD) - a nationalist and freedom fighter. He actively participated in the anti-Simon Commission Agitation and Civil Disobedience Movement, facing injury and imprisonment. He underwent several terms of imprisonment for having taken part in freedom movement.

105. 25 Dec. 1980 35 paise. M.A. Ansari.(1880 - 1936 AD). A scholar and freedom fighter. He was one of the founders of Jamia Millia Islami, New Delhi.

106. 13 May 1989 60 paise. Dr. N.S. Hardikar. ((1889 - 1975 AD). He was always at the front in the freedom struggle and went to jail many times.

107. 06 Nov. 1989 60 paise. Acharya Narendra Deo.

108. 28 Dec. 1985 100 paise each Centenary of Indian National Congress (A set of 4 stamps). The Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 AD and in the same year, the first session was held in Bombay under Presidentship of Shri W.C. Bannerjee. The illustrious sons of India like Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra nath Bannerjee and Madan Mohan Malaviya laid the foundation of this organisation. From the very beginning, the aim of the Congress was to establish Parliamentary institutions in the country. Renowned Constitutional Experts like Dadabhai Naoroji, Surendra Nath Banerjee and Gopal Krishna Gokhale, worked untiringly for setting up Parliamentary system of Government and for the growth of a secular, multilingual and multi-religious nationalism. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh, Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Paul were the first to adopt the posture of radical nationalism and invoked their countrymen to adopt a more dynamic plan of action. Lok Manya Tilak was the first to declare "Swaraj is my birthright". In 1929 AD, Jawaharlal Nehru presided over the Lahore session of the Congress. In this session, the Congress declared complete freedom as its ultimate goal.

During the Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930-31 AD and 1931-32 AD, the Indian undertook agitations on the appeal from Congress and these movements shook the foundations of the foreign rule in India. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi could feel the pulse of the nation. He asserted that to achieve freedom, it was essential to create political awakening among the masses and train them for a struggle through non-violence against the foreign domination. Thus, non-violence became the basic creed of the Congress. The historic Karachi Session of Congress in 1931 AD was held under the Chairmanship of Vallabh Bhai Patel in which the famous resolution of fundamental rights was adopted. In the Lucknow Session 1936 AD, Nehru formulated the foreign policy for the country based on working for peace and freedom, support for freedom struggle elsewhere and raising our voice against colonialism. Ins the historic meeting of All India Congress Committee held in Bombay in 1942 AD presided over by Mmaulana Abul Kalam Azad, Mahatma Gandhi gave the slogan "Do or Die" and people of India stood as one force to fight the British Rule. Their struggle bore fruit in 1947 AD and India attained the long cherished independence.

109. 15 Aug. 1948 3 1/2 As. Mahatma Gandhi - an apostle of truth and non-violence and architect of India's freedom fondly remembered as 'Father of the Nation.'
110. 15 Aug. 1948 1 1/2 As. Mahatma Gandhi.
111. 15 Aug. 1948 12 As. Mahatma Gandhi.
112. 15 Aug. 1948 10 Rs. Mahatma Gandhi.
113. 15 Aug. 1979 30 paise. Raja Mahendra Pratap - a revolutionary and freedom fighter.
114. 09 Aug. 1992 200 paise Quit India. "Here is a mantra, a short one that I give you. You may imprint it on your hearts and let every breath of yours give expression to it. The mantra is "Do or Die". We shall either free India or die in the attempt. We shall not live to see the perpetuation of our slavery." It with these inspiring words that Mahatma Gandhi in the speech he delivered just after the passing of the historic 'Quit India' resolution by the All-India Congress Committee on 8th August,1942 AD at Bombay ushered in a new phase in the glorious struggle for India's freedom. A 12 point programme for the Quit India Movement was issued, the last being "Spinning .... If millions spin, it will administer a powerful stimulus to the struggle." The August Revolution was a historic event and it had a tremendous influence on the future of Indian nationalism. The resolution authorised Gandhiji to lead a mass movement on non-violent lines for achieving independence. Thus a revolutionary instinct was kindled and forged amongst the masses. The passing of the resolution was immediately followed by the arrest of Gandhiji, Panditji (Jawaharlal Nehru), Sardar Patel, Rajendra Babu, Maulana Azad and all other prominent leaders and the adoption of other stern measures by the British Government. These repressive measures led to a widespread revolutionary upsurge of the people. The government resorted to burning of villages, machine gunning and aerial attacks on the people to suppress the uprising; which resulted in killing of thousands of men, women and children. The Movement brought forth a host of leaders and martyrs who performed great deeds of heroism and sacrifice. This mass revolutionary movement was a dangerous portent for an alien rule and manifested the new and resurgent forces of nationalism that were at work. It ultimately culminated in the grant of independence of India.
115. 23 Jan. 1964 15 np Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
116. 09 Aug. 1992 100 paise Quit India - Dor or Die 08 Aug.94 - Mahatma Gandhi
117. 28 Dec. 1990 100 paise. Shaheed Minar
118. 27 June 1991 100 paise. Sri Ram Sharma Acharya (1911 -1990 AD) - social reformer and freedom fighter.
119. 05 Aug. 1991 100 paise. Gopinath Bardoi - freedom fighter.
120. 10 Dec. 1987 60 paise. Rameshwari Nehru (1902 - 1966 AD) - freedom fighter and social worker.
121. 22 Jan. 1977 25 paise. Tarun Ram Phookan (1877 - 1939 AD).
122. 01 July 1982 50 paise. Bidhan Chandra Roy (1882 - 1962 AD) - a scholar and freedom fighter.

Plate 26 : Industries and Industrialists

Plate No. 31.

1. 01 Mar. 1958 15 np. Steel Industry in India. The stamp features the Tata Iron and Steel Company's steel plant at Jamshedpur founded in 1919 AD and the portrait of the founder Jamshedji Nusserwanji Tata.
2. 07 Jan. 1965 15 paise. Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (1839 - 1904 AD), the pioneer industrialist in India.
3. 26 Jan. 1955 10 Rs. Steel Industry. In addition to the then existing two steel plants viz., Tata Iron and Steel (TISCO), under the first two five year plans, iron and steel plants were setup at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur (West Bengal). The joint investment of these three is called Hindustan Steel Limited. Fifth Anniversary of the Republic saw launching of First Five Year Plan. The theme of the issue of stamps on the said occasion covered the industries the Government aimed to develop (Figures 3, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 26, 30 and 31).
4. 20 June 1969 20 paise. Laxmanrao Kirloskar (1869 - 1956 AD), the pioneer industrialist and social reformer.
5. 11 June 1984 50 paise. G.D.Birla, the famous industrialist.
6. 05 Apr. 1965 15 paise. Visakhapatnam Port and freighter 'Jalusha' built by Hindustan shipyards. Vishakhapatnam is the biggest ship building and repairing facility in the country.
7. 02 Apr. 1977 25 paise. Narottam Morarji (1877 - 1924 AD) - the architect of the modern Indian shipping.
8. 02 Feb. 1985 100 paise. Minicoy Light House. From time immemorial, lighthouses have been proudly playing their part as 'Lamp Posts of the Ocean'. The Pharos of Alexandria built in 3rd Century B.C., which was one of the earliest lighthouses, was admired as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. India has had a glorious maritime heritage and relics of lighthouse towers are also found near erstwhile ports in medieval India. The main function of a lighthouse is to guide ships while sailing in high seas and also when approaching the coastline. Lighthouses also mark danger such as submerged rocks, shoals and wrecks and thus play an important role in ensuring safety of life as well as navigation. Amongst the few major lighthouses in India built in the 19th Century and which are still in use today, the lighthouse at Minicoy Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, which was established in 1885 A.D., stands as the foremost. By virtue of its strategic location in the Arabian Sea, this lighthouse renders vital navigational guidance to all ships plying in the international sea lanes from Aden to Colombo and Suez to Singapore and the Far East. The circular masonry tower which, is 47 metres high, is provided with a powerful revolving lens apparatus capable of giving an effective beam intensity of 100,000 candles with a viability range of 26 nautical miles. A powerful medium frequency Radio-beacon with an effective range of 400 km. has also been installed in 1985 AD at this lighthouse in order to provide increased navigational guidance to mariners.
9. 17 Oct. 1970 20 paise. Port Commissioners Calcutta. An organisation devoted to development of Calcutta Port.
10. 11 Jan. 1986 250 paise. Naval Dockyard Bombay 250th Anniversary. The Naval Dockyard Bombay from its humble beginning in 1736 AD, from designing and building small crafts, it has developed into a mammoth organisation for repair of the most sophisticated Indian Naval Warships. The Dockyard has become a symbol of rapid progress and technological advancement from repair and building of wooden hulls in 1736 AD, to the repair and servicing of the most sophisticated and advanced electronic gadgets of today. It is the most modern of the Naval Dockyards in South Asia today.

11. 26 Jan. 1955 4 ps. India is a vast country with more than 6 lakhs of villages where 70 percent of live mainly depending on agriculture. Bullocks are used to plough the fields and for carrying grain or vegetables.
12. 26 Jan. 1955 3 ps. Tractor - used mainly for agriculture.
13. 26 Jan. 1955 9 ps. Persian wheel and chain pumps are used to pump out water from the wells for agriculture purposes.
14. 25 Jan. 1982 10 paise. Minor Irrigation (Definitive).
15. 26 Jan. 1955 5 Rs. Sindri Fertiliser Factory.
16. 26 Jan. 1955 6 ps. Powerloom - used in cotton textile industry.
17. 13 Nov. 1977 25 paise. Agriexpo 77. Biggest ever national agricultural exposition. Agriculture is the largest and most widely spread industry in India.
18. 26 Jan. 1955 1 A. Damodar Valley Project comprises of four strange dams with hydel power houses.
19. 07 Dec. 1980 200 paise. Handloom Weaving.
20. 26 Jan. 1955 3 As. Handloom - Handmade local costumes of Nagaland.
21. 26 Jan. 1955 2 As. Spinning wheel and woman. Spinning, weaving and dyeing received special governmental patronage under small scale industries development programme in India.
22. 19 Feb. 1970 20 paise. Munshi Newal Kishore (1836 -1895 AD), founder of the Newal Kishore press and Book Depot at Lucknow, the oldest printing and publishing house in India.
23. 01 Jan. 1962 15 np. Gauhati Refinary.
24. 26 Jan. 1955 1 Re. Telephone Engineer - Indian Telephone Industries at Bangalore exports telephone equipment to number of countries.
25. 23 Nov. 1990 500 paise. Rubber Tapping (Definitive).
26. 20 Dec. 1980 100 paise. Gold Mining.
27. 26 Jan. 1955 8 As. Chittaranjan Loco Works produces all types of steam locomotives - WG, WP, WT and YG class for both broad gauge and metre gauge.
28. 15 Aug. 1965 15 paise. Lady Plucking Tea
29. 15 May 1968 4 np. Coffee Berries.
30. 11 Dec. 1993 600 paise. India Tea.
31. 26 Jan. 1955 12 As. Hindustan Aircraft Factory, Bangalore (Estd. 1964 AD).
32. 26 Jan. 1955 2 Rs. Rare Earth Factory, Alwaye meets nearly a third of the total world requirement of rare earth extracted from monagite.
33. 13 Nov. 1977 15 np. INDIA 1958 Exhibition.
34. 17 Nov. 1978 25 paise. National Small Industries Fair
35. 05 Nov. 1986 5000 paise Wind Energy.
36. 30 Nov. 1988 2000 paise. Bio Gas (Definitive)
37. 01 Jan. 1988 500 paise. Solar Energy
38. 23 Apr. 1977 25 paise. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry was founded in 1927 AD and is the central organisation for all chambers of commerce, industry and trade association in India.

Theme 27 : Nation Building

Plate No. 32.

1. 01 July 1962 15 np. Calcutta - High Court. With the passing of Indian High Court Act, 1861 A.D., by the British Parliament, High Courts were established in the Presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Calcutta High Court was established on 1st July 1862 AD, which replaced the earlier established Courts of the East India Company.
2. 06 Aug. 1982 15 np. High Court of Judicature - Madras was inaugurated on 15th August, 1862 A.D.
3. 14 Aug. 1962 15 np. High Court of Bombay was established on 14th August 1862 A.D.

4. 25 Nov. 1966 15 np. Allahabad High Court was established on 17th March 1865 A.D.
5. 21 June 1977 25 paise. Rajya Sabha - the Council of States in the Indian Parliament.
6. 08 Nov. 1977 25 paise. UPSC (Union Public Service Commission). The first Public Service Commission was established in October 1926 A.D. Under the provisions of the Government of India Act 1935 A.D., the Public Service Commission at the Centre became the Federal public Service Commission and Commissions were also set up for Provinces. With the inauguration of the Republic in January 1950 A.D., the Federal Public Service Commission became the Union public Service Commission. The Union and the State Public Service Commissions were set up as autonomous bodies entrusted with the task of conducting examinations and recruitment and advising the Government on all matters concerning the civil servants.
7. 10 Jan. 1989 60 paise. Lok Sabha Secretariat. The foundation of a separate Central Legislature Secretariat, independent of the control of the Government, was laid in India on 10th January 1929 A.D. With the coming into force of the Constitution of India on 26 January 195-0 A.D., the name of the Department was changed to "Parliament Secretariat'. In 1954 A.D., the name of the Secretariat was changed from " Parliament Secretariat" to "Lok Sabha Secretariat".
8. 26 Jan. 1962 15 np. Panchayati Raj, A system of Government by elected representatives forming village block and district level councils to administer rural areas.
9. 26 Jan. 1975 25 paise. 25th Anniversary of the Republic - Lok Sabha. On 26th January 1950 A.D., the Constitution ushered in the "Sovereign Democratic Republic" of India. Committed to securing for all citizens Justice - social, economic and political, Liberty, and Equality of status and opportunity, the Constitution of India provides for a parliamentary form of government, based on adult franchise, recognition of democratic freedoms and an independent judiciary. As the highest deliberative body and the grand inquest of the nation, Parliament occupies a pre-eminent and pivotal position in the country's constitutional set-up and political life. it has, over the years, secured for itself a unique place in the esteem of the people as the forum through which they articulate and realize their aspirations and ventilate their grievances and difficulties. As the peaceful conduct of, and vast turnover at, elections indicate, people have come to have faith in Parliament and parliamentary institutions.
10. 24 Dec. 1975 25 paise. Weather Services in India. The India meteorological Department was organised in 1875 A.D. as a centralised agency for the whole of India with the object of systematic study of climate and meteorology and application of the knowledge thus acquired to issued weather forecasts and storm and other warnings. Though meteorological observation with the aid of instruments was in vogue from 1796 A.D., its application for economic activities began only later with the issue of first seasonal forecast of monsoon rain fall in 1886 A.D. Towards the end of 19th Century, geomagnetic, astrophysical and seismological observations were also amalgamated with the Department of Meteorology. This Department has grown steadily and now has a highly improved cyclone warning arrangement. Its service to the cause of aviation, agriculture, shipping, irrigation and town planning is also praise-worthy. About 500 surface observatories and a large number of upper air stations, radars and other sophisticated equipments enable the Department to discharge its functions. Most of the instruments required are manufactured in the workshops of the Department. As a member of the World meteorological Department has made significant contribution to its activities and has made available to other countries the services of experts in weather services.
11. 13 Jan. 1967 15 paise. General Elections. The observance of elective principles in the selection of rulers and kings can be traced back in India almost to the earliest pages of history. There is a reference to this in the epics. Brahmanas refer to the popularly chosen rulers and the offices of king-makers (Raja Kartri). Buddhist literature of the 4th Century B.C. refers to republics like that of the Lichhavis where the Chief of the State

(Senapati) was chosen by election. Voting was known as 'Chhanda' which literally means a 'wish'. Voting tickets were called ' Shalakas' (pins) and the officers appointed by the assembly to collect voting papers were called "Shalaka Grahak'. Though generally republics were absorbed in empires, the chiefs of trade guilds, and of craft associations of urban corporations and village assemblies continued to be elected by the people. Administrative boards and parishads composed of members selected by the respective guilds or associations, persisted in various places for a long time. Village communities continued functioning in some areas e.g. in Maharashtra under the Peshwas up to the 18th century. The principle of indirect election was first introduced in 1892 A.D. by the British; but popularly elected representatives entered the legislatures only in 1909 A.D. - the electorate being very narrow. Although the electorate was gradually widened by the Government of India Acts of 1919 A.D. and 1935 A.D. the ideal of universal adult suffrage was realised only by the inauguration of the present Constitution in 1950 A.D. Since then general elections are being held. To each and every citizen of this largest democracy in the world, the General Election is indeed a most important event.

12. 10 Mar. 1971 20 paise. Census Centenary. The first comprehensive population census of the country was completed in 1871-72 A.D. and thereafter a regular chain of decennial enumeration was established. The year 1971 A.D. marked the completion of hundred years of regular decennial census taking in India.
13. 12 Dec. 1966 15 paise. Family Planning stresses the need to control India's population which is considered to be the second largest in the world.
14. 17 Feb. 1980 30 paise. Institution of Engineers (India).
15. 01 Aug. 1975 25 paise. S.I.T.E. Satellite Instructional Television was designed to gain insight and experience of technical, managerial and financial requirements of a workable National Satellite T.V. system.
16. 19 July 1989 60 paise. 125th Anniversary of Allahabad Bank. The Bank came into being on 24th April, 1865 A.D. in Allahabad. it was a welcome chance for the Indians who were looking for an Indian Bank but had no expertise and knowledge of the technicalities to start a banking company.
17. 01 May 1967 15 paise. Survey of India Bicentenary. The Survey of India was founded in 1767 A.D. In the fields of Geography, Geodesy and Cartography, the Survey of India has made several original and valuable contributions. Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world was discovered and measured by the Survey of India and bears the name of one of its eminent Surveyor Generals, Sir George Everest. One of the greatest achievements of the Survey of India is the execution of the Great Trigonometrical Survey, providing the country with a framework of precise geodetic control points which has proved of immense value. Other unique operations introduced in the Survey of India are Positional Astronomy, Gravimetry, Geomagnetism, Tidal Predictions, etc. India is also known as the home of the theory of Isostasy towards which the officers of the Survey of India have made outstanding contributions.
18. 27 May 1980 35 paise. Government Mint Bombay was set up by the British East India Company in 1717 A.D.
19. 31 July 1990 200 paise. The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) is an autonomous apex body responsible for the organization and management of research and education in the fields of agriculture, animal sciences and fisheries in India. It was set up in 1929 A.D. on the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Agriculture.
20. 23 Feb. 1978 25 paise. Wheat Research. Wheat Revolution in India started with breeding of high yeilding varieties and has resulted in doubling of wheat production in a short span of 5 years.
21. 1989 60 paise. A Hundred Years of Oil. The Indian Petroleum industry was discovered in Digboi, Assam, in 1889 A.D. Together with imported crude the country's 12 operating refineries process/refine about 50 million tonnes of crude oil per year.
22. 15 Dec. 1988 60 paise. Bhakra Dam was dedicated to the nation on 22nd October 1963 A.D. It is the second highest straight gravity concrete dam in the world . It is

225.55m high, 518.16m long and 9.14m wide at the top with about eight km long network of galleries inside for instrument panels, pipelines and monitoring offices.

23. 29 Oct. 1979 30 paise. Hirakud Dam - In an agricultural country like India the farmers, while anxiously scanning the skies for the gathering monsoon clouds which will bring welcome showers to the parched land, cast wistful glances at the rivers, occasionally in turbulent rush to meet the sea but frequently flowing placidly on their endless journey. The attempts to harness the rivers for irrigation go centuries back to the 2nd Century AD when the Grand Anicut across the river Kaveri in Tamil Nadu was built. Still in good repair, this masonry weir on the sand foundation is serving nearly half a million hectares. Another pioneer of storage structures on rivers in the South, Sir Arthur Cotton constructed the Godavari Anicut in 1853 AD. During the last quarter of the last century three large dams, the 60 metre high Khadakvasla Dam (completed in 1879 AD) and 53 metre high Periyar Dam (completed in 1887 AD) and 41 metre high Tansa Dam (completed in 1897 AD) brought into its own the large storage structures on rivers for irrigation purposes. During the first half of this century, there were hardly 30 dams of 30 metre or more in height. However, since 1947 AD more than 270 dams of height of 30 metre or more were taken up and out of them 167 have been completed. Some of the notable large dams are Bhakra, Nagarjunasagar, Hirakud, Rihand, Tungabhadra, Gandhisagar, Ranapratapsagar, Damodar Valley Dams etc.
24. 01 Apr. 1985 50 paise. 50 Years of Potato Research. The Potato is a native of the Andean tropical highlands of South America, from where it was taken to Europe in the sixteenth century by the Spanish conquistadors. within the next 50 years it appears to have been brought to India by the Portugese, or perhaps the Spanish. In an account of the travels through India during (1615 - 1617 A.D.), Edward Terry-Chaplin to Sir Thomas Roe, Ambassador of the East India Company to the Mughal Court states that he found potato being grown "everywhere .... in the northern most parts of the Empire." Many important contributions have been made in potato research in India.
25. 11 Dec. 1954 2 As. Forest Research Institute., Dehradun was established in 1878 A.D.
26. 28 Jan. 1982 200 paise. 100 Years of Telephone Services. Within six years of the invention of the Telephone by Alexander Graham Bell, the telephone bells started jingling in India. The telephone exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta and Madras started functioning in 1882 A.D.
27. 13 Dec. 1975 25 paise. India Security Press Nasik Road (Maharashtra) is engaged in the production of postage stamps and postal stationery for the Department of Post India. Non-postal stamps (non-judical and judicial) adhesive stamps, etc. for the State Governments and other security forms such as cheques, promissory notes, passport booklets, State Government Bonds, National Savings Certificates etc. etc., for the Central and State Governments and Public Bodies and Currency and Bank Notes required by the Reserve Bank of India. The India Security Press was established at Nasik Road in November, 1925 A.D.for producing all security documents ie., documents representing money value required by the Posts and Telegraphs, Law Courts, Taxation Departments etc. The Central Stamp Store which came to be added as a wing of the Stamp Press in 1928 A.D., distributes the products of the Stamp Press in 1928 A.D., distributes the products of the Stamp Press to more than 600 Treasuries and sub-treasuries in the country.
28. 11 Jan. 1971 20 paise. Indian Life Insurance. In 1870 AD, the first Indian Life Insurance Company was started, which accepted Indian lives freely without any restrictions or distinction. On January 19, 1956 AD, the Government nationalised life insurance business and the Life Insurance Corporation came into being on September 01, 1956 AD, taking over the liabilities of some 245 private insurers and provident Fund Societies operating in the country. With a monopoly of life insurance business in the country, the LIC stands guard over the hopes and future of millions of families and has been a great source of general economic strength.

29. 30 May 1992 100 paise. Telecommunications Training Centre, Jabalpur as established on 22nd April 1942 A.D. It had its origin in Calcutta in 1920 A.D. and was shifted to Jabalpur during World War II.
30. 16 Apr. 1953 2 As. Railway Centenary.
31. 08 June 1961 15 np. All India Radio Silver Jubilee.
32. 14 Nov. 1961 15 np. Indian Industries Fair.
33. 13 Jan. 1951 2 As. Geological Survey of India Centenary (1851 - 1951 AD).
34. 01 Nov. 1953 2 As. Telegraph Centenary.

Theme 28 : National Leaders

Plate No. 33.

1. 02 Oct. 1969 75 paise. Mahatma Gandhi (Centenary).
2. 12 June 1964 15 paise. Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964 A.D.). India's first Prime Minister and the founder of almost all aspects of its modern growth. Nehru was the foremost disciple of Mahatma Gandhi and translated the Mahatma's philosophy into a concrete plan of action for the independence of India.
3. 15 Aug. 1973 20 paise. Gandhi and Nehru.
4. 14 Apr. 1991 100 paise. Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891 -1956 A.D.), the chief architect of Indian Constitution and Champion of Human Rights was born in a family belonging to the untouchable Mahar Community in Maharashtra. After graduating from Elphinstone College Bombay in 1912 A.D., he did his higher studies at Columbia University, United States of America where he was awarded Ph.D. Later, he joined the London School of Economics and Political Science and obtained the degree of D.Sc., (Eco) and was also called to the bar from Gray's Inn. In 1927 A.D., he led the Mahad march at the Chowdar Tank in Colaba, near Bombay to establish the right of the untouchables to take water from the public tank. This marked the beginning of the anti-caste and anti-priest movement. The temple entry movement launched by Dr. Ambedkar in 1930 A.D., at the Kalaram Temple, Nasik is another landmark in the struggle for human rights and social justice. On 14th October, 1956 A.D., Baba Sahib Ambedkar embraced Buddhism. he continued the crusade for social revolution till the end of his life on 6th December 1956. He was honoured with the highest national honour, "Bharat Ratna" in April 1990 A.D.
5. 26 Jan. 1966 15 paise. Lal Bahadur Shastri (1904 - 1966 A.D.) - the second Prime Minister of India.
6. 11 Nov. 1966 15 paise. Abul Kalam Azad (1888 - 1958 A.D.) The Maulana remained in the forefront of the national struggle and was imprisoned on several occasions for long periods. He was Minister of Education in the Government of India from 15th January 1947 A.D. till his death on the 22nd February 1958 A.D. A devout Muslim, he always stood for national unity and communal harmony.
7. 08 Oct. 1980 35 paise. Jayaprakash Narayan (1917 A.D. - 1984A.D.). With the blessings of Gandhiji and Nehru, he plunged headlong into the freedom struggle. He was arrested and jailed at Nasik in 1932 A.D., where he conferred with his friends to form a Socialist Group within the Congress. He organised a Conference to set up the Congress Socialist Party with Acharya Narendra Dev as President and himself as Secretary. After Mahatmaji's death in 1948 A.D., Jayaprakash Narayan formed an independent Socialist Party. Later, he announced withdrawal from active politics and joined Acharya Vinoba Bhave's "Bhoodan" campaign. he threw himself whole-heartedly into it. A Gandhian crusader by then, he championed for diverse causes. He journeyed into the ravines of the Chambal river leading to the surrender of a number of hardened desperadoes. By 1974 A.D., he started moving back to active politics. Beginning with open support to the Gujarat agitation, he plunged deeper into active politics by his lead to an agitation in Bihar and by his call for what he called "the total revolution'. Shri Jayaprakash Narayan also gave a call to serving Government employees and to the armed personnel for

furthering the movement initiated by him. These events led to his arrest in June 1975 A.D. He was, however, released from detention in November 1975 A.D. Later, he played a crucial role in the formation of the Janata Party which was voted to power in the General Elections in March 1977 A.D. Her was a gifted theoretician and a forceful writer.

8. 19 Nov. 1985 300 paise. Indira Gandhi (Priyadarshini) (1917 - 1984 A.D.) was the third Prime Minister of India. Since her childhood, young Indira Priyadarshini involved herself in the struggle for freedom. Smt. Indira Gandhi came in close contact with various eminent national leaders through her father Jawaharlal Nehru and her family. She was also an ardent advocate to scientific and technological advancement. India's Space and Nuclear Research programme owe their growth and development to the vision and foresight of Smt. Indira Gandhi. She was elected chairperson of the Non-Aligned Meet in 1983 A.D.
9. 31 Oct. 1975 25 paise. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (1875 - 1950 A.D.). A great freedom fighter, an outstanding statesman and the first Home Minister of free India.
10. 01 Apr. 1969 20 paise. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai (born 1895 A.D.) He is remembered as a Communications Minister for having introduced the ' All-Up Scheme' in the country which benefited quick transmission of all First Class Mail. He was also responsible for grant of weekly off to all Posts and Telegraphs staff. As a Food Minister, he was able to introduce control on food grains.
11. 10 Dec. 1978 25 paise. Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (1878 - 1972 A.D.). A great patriot and statesman. He was the first Indian Governor General of free India.
12. 13 May 1962 15 np. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India, 1950-1962 A.D. (1884 - 1963 A.D.). The first President of India.
13. 05 Sep. 1967 15 paise. Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, President of India, 1962-1967 A.D. (1888 - 1975 A.D.). A philosopher, thinker and scholar. He was the second President of India.
14. 11 June 1969 20 paise. Dr. Zakir Hussain, President of India, 1967-1969 A.D. (1897 - 1969 A.D.), a scholar and the third president of India.
15. 24 Aug. 1974 25 paise. V.V. Giri, President of India 1969-1974 A.D. A labour leader and the fourth President of India.
16. 22 Mar. 1977 25 paise. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, 1974 - 1977 A.D. A far sighted statesman and the fifth President of India.
17. 29 May 1990 100 paise. Chaudhary Charan Singh (1902 - 1987 A.D.), a leader of farmers. He became the Prime Minister of a coalition government in 1980 A.D.
18. 03 Feb. 1970 20 paise. C.N. Annadurai (1909 - 1969 A.D.), patriot and founder of D.M.K. Party in Tamilnadu and was Chief Minister of Tamilnadu from 1967 to 1969 A.D.
19. 05 Apr. 1991 100 paise. Babu Jagjiwan Ram (1908 - 1986 A.D.). A freedom fighter and held many distinguished positions as a Central Minister.
20. 15 July 1976 25 paise. K.Kamaraj (1903 - 1975 A.D.). a patriot, freedom fighter and national leader.
21. 17 Jan. 1990 60 paise. Dr. M.G. Ramachandran (191 7 - 1987 A.D.), a great actor, director and film producer. He was a popular Chief Minister of Tamilnadu.
22. 20 Aug. 1987 100 paise. Sant Harchand Singh Longowal - Eminent Sikh leader. He signed an accord with Central Government which a hope of harmony in Punjab.
23. 30 May 1991 100 paise. Karpoori Thakur (1924 - 1988 A.D.). From a school teacher, he rose to become a Minister, a Deputy Chief Minister and ultimately the Chief Minister of Bihar State. He was arrested while leading hundreds of Posts and Telegraphs employees during their historical general strike of 1960 A.D.
24. 06 July 1978 25 paise. Syama Prasad Mookerjee (1901 - 1953 A.D.) - A Humanist and Founder President of Bharatiya Jana Sangh.
25. 20 Aug. 1991 100 paise. Rajiv Gandhi (1944 - 1991 AD). He became in 1984 A.D. and adorned opposition benches in Parliament from 1989 AD onwards. His life was brutally cut short by a bomb blast in 1991 AD.
26. 127 Feb. 1981 35 paise. G.V. Mavalankar was born at Baroda in 1888 A.D. In the

annals of Indian parliament, Ganesh Vasudeo Mavalankar occupies a place of resplendent honour. Jawaharlal Nehru called him, 'Father of the Lok Sabha'. He made lasting contributions to the moulding and development of Parliamentary life.

27. 05 May 1978 25 paise. Dindayal Upadhyay, a politician and national leader.

Plate 29 : Sports

Plate No. 34.

1. 06 Nov. 1982 100 paise IX Asian Games Delhi 1982 (Archery). India has the proud privilege of lighting the first Asian Games torch in 1951 AD. Nineth Asian Games were also held in India in November 1982 AD.
2. 29 Sep. 1990 650 paise. XI Asian Games.
3. 19 Nov. 1982 200 paise. IX Asian Games, 1982 - Javellin Throw.
4. 28 July 1984 100 paise. XXIII Olympics - High Jump. The origin of the Olympic games is shrouded in the misty past. There were various traditions as to its origin. According to one, the first race was between Pelops and Oanomaus. Another attributed the festival to Heracles. Traditionally the first celebration of the games was in 776 B.C. The list of Olympic victors being with Coreobus of Elis (776 B.C.), and this list is often cited by ancient authors for purposes of dating. Olympia, a place in Greece, was the scene of the games. The festival occurred every four years and was held in high summer at the time of full moon. A sacred truce was declared so that even in the time of war any who wished might have safe conduct to the games. It occupied such an important position in the life of Greece that time was measured by the four-year interval between them an 'Olympad'. The games were abolished in circa 393 AD by the Toman Emperor Theodosius-I after Greece had lost its independence. At first the programme consisted only of a single event, a race the length of the stadium. Afterward, additional races, the discuss throw, the javelin throw, the broad jump, wrestling, the pentathalon, chariot racing and other events were added. Participation in the games was at first restricted to Greeks, but competitors came from all the Greek colonies. Kings competed alongside commoners, even the Roman Emperor Nero (37-68 AD) sought Olympic honours. Winners became national heroes; odes were composed and sung in their praise and sculptors preserved their strength and beauty in marble. The Olympic Games were revived through the efforts of Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863- 1937 AD) of France. He summoned an international conference at Paris in 1894 AD which was attended by the representatives of 12 nations. The games of the I Olympiad of the modern cycle were held under the patronage of the King of Greece in 1896 AD in Athens.
5. 30 Oct. 1982 100 paise. IX Asian Games - Wrestling. There are two styles found in the free styles wrestling viz., the Indian style in which one opponent has to put the other flat on his back and the other is the Greco Roman style in this the winning wrestler has to keep the loser on his back to the count of 10 before he is declared the winner.
6. 29 Sep. 1990 100 paise. XI Asian Games.
7. 10 Aug. 1972 20 paise. XX Olympic Games. Hocky was introduced in the Olympics in 1908 AD at London and was included in 1912 AD at Stockholm, with England emerging winners both times. But the discipline was dropped in 1920 and 1924 AD before being revived in 1928 AD, when India first took part in it and won the gold medal. India were to win the gold at next five Olympics in 1932 AD, 1936 AD, 1948 AD, 1952 AD, and 1956 AD before losing to Pakistan in 1960 AD. India won twice in 1964 AD and 1980 AD to make it seven golds overall. Boxing had always been a part of the Olympics. They have a history from the ancient Olympics and when Modern Olympics came into being in 1896 AD, they were on the programme. India won a bronze medal in wrestling in 1952 AD through K.D.Jadhav.
8. 27 Sep. 1973 30 paise. K.S.Ranjit Sinhji.
9. 25 Nov. 1982 285 paise. Yatching
10. 29 Sep. 1990 100 paise. XI Asian Games

11. 09 May 1980 30 paise. 5 Asian Table Tennis. The Asian Table Tennis Union was formed in 1952 AD. But it received recognition and acceptance by all the countries of the world during the 33rd World Championships held at Calcutta in 1975 AD. The biennial Asian Union Championships have been held in Beijing, Yokoham, Pyongyang and Kuala Lampur. The 5th Championships were held in Calcutta in 1980 AD.
12. 19 July 1980 100 paise. 22 Olympics - High Jump.
13. 08 Aug. 1992 1100 paise. XXV Olympics 1992 - held at Barcelona.
14. 19 July 1980 280 paise. High Jump - XXII Olympics were held in Mexico.
15. 19 Nov. 1982 50 paise. IX Asian Games Delhi 1982-Cycling
16. 31 May 1986 500 paise. World Cup Foot Ball Mexico. Interest in international football began in 1872 AD, when the first match between any two countries was played. This was Scotland vs England in Glasgow. The idea of the World Cup was, however, conceived in France. Its true parents were, indeed, two Frenchmen : Jules Rimet, after whom it was first named and Henri Delaunay. Rimer was the President of the French Federation FFF for 30 years from its beginning in 1919 AD, and President of FIFA, the Federation Internationale des Football Association, from 1920 to 1954 AD. In 1930 AD, the first World Cup Tournament was held in which thirteen countries took part, only three being from Europe. Today, there are no fewer than 150 nations who are members of FIFA, the world governing body whose headquarters are in Zurich. The World Cup with its finals every four years following the examples of Olympic Games. The World Cup Football competition in 1986 AD was held in Mexico.
17. 28 July 1984 50 paise. Basket Ball. XXIII Olympics were held at Los Angeles in 1984 AD.
18. 19 Nov. 1982 285 paise. IX Asian Games Delhi 1982 - Discus Throw.
19. 16 Sep. 1986 150 paise. X Asian Games were held in Seoul, the Phoenix City of the Orient. The number of different sports included in the Asian Games has increased gradually from six in the first series in New Delhi (1951 AD) to 25 sports representing 269 events at the 1986 Asian Games. India participated in the following events in the said year : 1. Cycling, 2. Golf, 3. Tennis, 4. Volleyball, 5. Weightlifting, 6. Badminton, 7. Shooting, 8. Hockey (Women, 9. Boxing, 10. Hockey (Men), 11. Table Tennis, 12. Gymnastics (Men & Women), 13, Yatching, 14. Rowing, 15. Archery, 16, Swimming, 17. Equestrian, 18. Athletics, 19. Football, 20. Wrestling, 21. Judo and 22. Taekwondo.
20. 19 Nov. 1982 325 paise. IX Asian Games Delhi - Foot Ball.
21. 16 Sep. 1986 300 paise. X Asian Games.
22. 28 July 1984 200 paise. XXIII Olympics - A girl doing Floor Exercises.
23. 29 Apr. 1982 1100 paise. Adventurous Sports - Skiing. Adventurous Sports is a new phenomenon that has been catching on all over the world in recent years. Skiing is perhaps the oldest of these sports and skis believed to be 4000 to 5400 years old, have been found in bogs in Sweden and Finland.
24. 28 July 1984 250 paise. XXIII Olympics - Weight Lifting.
25. 08 Aug. 1992 600 paise. XXV Olympics 1992.
26. 25 Nov. 1982 285 paise. IX Asian Games Delhi 1982 - Rowing.
27. 29 Apr. 1992 500 paise. Adventurous Sports - River Rafting. White water rafting was first done on the Colorado river in the United States of America in 1858 AD by Major J.W. Powell. This sport caught the attention of adventure lovers in India in 1984 AD when a joint Indo-American expedition was flagged off on the river Ganges. India has made its mark in this sport in international competitions and has won Silver and Bronze medals on a number of occasions. The Indian rivers suitable for this sport are the Ganga (September to May), Alaknanda (October to November), Bhagirathi, Sharda, Teesta, Brahmaputra, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Zanskar.
28. 29 Apr. 1992 200 paise. Adventurous Sports - Hang gliding. Ostto lilienthal, the father of modern Hang Gliding coined the term 'Hang Gleiter'. A typical hang glider consists of a light aluminum frame to which a synthetic fabric is attached. The pilot is suspended by a harness or swing seat connected to the control frame. Hang Gliding is an

organised sport with competitions for duration of flight, distance and altitude gained. This sport was introduced in India in 1984 AD when for the first time a competition was held in Billing, in the Kangra valley of Himachal Pradesh, which remains the most famous gliding spot in India, hosting many an international standard competition.

29. 29 Apr. 1992 400 paise. Adventurous Sports - Wind Surfing. This is a recently developed water sport and is also known as 'Sailboarding' in some countries. It is a combination of the basic principles of sailing and surfing land is done on a fibre glass board, conical on both sides. The sport in its modern form originated in California in the late 1960's and came to India in the early 1980's and is now very popular in the coastal areas of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Goa. National competitions of this sport are also being held in this country.

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF POST INDIA

CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF DEPARTMENT OF POST INDIA

Director General of the Post Office in India

M. H.P.A.B. Riddell	7-3-1854 A.D.- March 1867 A.D. (With breaks caused by absence in Europe).
Mr. George Paton	1856-57 A.D.
Mr. William Grey	1857-59 A.D.
Mr. R.H.Williamson	1859-60 A.D.
Mr. H.P.A.B. Riddell	1860-61 A.D.
Mr. George Paton	1861-62 A.D.
Mr. A.M. Monteath	1863-64 A.D.
Mr. George Paton	1864-65 A.D.
Mr. H.P.A.B. Riddell	1865-67 A.D.
Mr. A.M. Monteath	1867-71 A.D.
Mr. F.R.Hogg (Offg)	1871-72 A.D.
Mr. A.M. Monteath	1872-73 A.D.
Lt.Col. G.M. Battye (Offg)	1873-74 A.D. (For about 3 months)
Sir. F.R.Hogg (Offg)	1873-76 A.D.
Mr. A.M.Monteath	1876-80 A.D.
Sir.F.R.Hogg	August 1880 A.D. to 20th February 1883 A.D.
Mr.H.E.M. James (Offg)	21st February 1883 A.D. to 14th August 1884 A.D.
Mr A.U. Fanshawe (Offg)	15th August 1884 A.D. to 25th April 1885 A.D.
Mr. H.E.M. James (Offg)	26th April 1885 A.D. to 21st November 1885 A.D.
Sir F.R. Hogg	22nd November 1885 A.D. to 13th May 1889 A.D.
Mr. A.U. Fanshawe (Offg)	27th August 1888 A.D. to 26th November 1888 A.D. and 7th April to 12th May 1889 A.D.
Mr. A.U. Fanshawe (On permanent basis)	13th May 1889 A.D. to 18th May 1890 A.D.
Mr. H.M. Kisch (Offg)	19th May 1890 A.D. to 07th April 1891 A.D.
Mr. A.U. Fanshawe	08th April 1891 A.D. to 06th November 1893 A.D.
Mr.H.M. Kisch (Offg)	07th November 1893 A.D. to 25th April 1895 A.D.
Mr. A.U. Fanshawe	26th April 1895 A.D. to 11th December 1896 A.D.
Mr. H.M. Kisch (Offg)	12th December 1896 A.D. to 12th February 1897 A.D.
Mr.A.U. Fanshawe	13th February 1897 A.D. to 31st March 1902 A.D.
Mr. H.M. Kisch (Offg)	1st April to 21st June 1901 A.D.

Sir. A.U. Famshawe, C.S.I.	22nd June 1901 A.D. to 17th November 1902 A.D.
Mr. H.M. Kisch (Offg)	18th November 1902 A.D. to December 1903 A.D.
Mr. Charles Stewart-Wilson	December 1903 A.D. to 28th February 1904 A.D.
Sir. A.U. Fanshawe, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.,	1st March 1904 A.D. to 31st March 1906 A.D.
Mr. Charles Stewart-Wilson, I.C.S.,	1st April 1906 A.D. to 12th March 1908 A.D.
Mr. William Maxwell	13th March 1908 A.D. to December 1908 A.D.
Mr. E.A. Doran	December 1908 A.D. to 28th January 1909 A.D.
Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,	29th January 1909 A.D. to 16th February 1913 A.D.
Mr. William Maxwell, C.I.E., M.V.O., I.C.S.,	17th February 1913 A.D. to 31st March 1914 A.D.

Director General of Posts and Telegraphs

Sir William Maxwell C.L.E., M.V.O., I.C.S.,	1st April 1914 A.D. to 26th June 1915 A.D.
Mr. C.H. Harrison	27th June 1915 A.D. to 29th May 1916 A.D.
Sir William Maxwell	30th May 1916 A.D. to 25th March 1918 A.D.
Mr. G.R.Clarke, O.B.E., I.C.S.,	26th March 1918 A. D. to 06th August 1920 A.D.
Mr. H.N. Hutchinson (Offg)	07th August 1920 A.D. to 2nd April 1921 A.D.
Mr. G.R.Clarke	03rd April 1921 A.D. to 30th November 1922 A.D.
Mr. H.A.Sams,(Offg) C.I.E.,I.C.S.,	01st December 1922 A.D. to 05th May 1923 A.D.
Mr. G.R.Clarke	06th May 1923 A.D. to 17th May 1924 A.D.
Mr. H.A. Sams (Offg)	18th May 1924 A.D. to 06th November 1924 A.D.
Sir Geoffry Clarke	07th November 1924 A.D. to 08th August 1925 A.D.
Sir Ganen Roy, Kt., M.I.E.E.,	09th August 1925 A.D. to 07th February 1926 A.D.
Mr. H.A. Sams (Offg)	08th February 1926 A.D. to 07th June 1926 A.D.
Sir Ganen Roy	08th June 1926 A.D. to 10th April 1927 A.D.
Mr. H.A. Sams	11th April 1927 A.D. to 06th May 1928 A.D.

Directors General

Mr. P.G. Rogers (Offg) C.I.E., I.C.S.,	07th May 1928 A.D. to 05th November 1928 A.D.
Mr. J.R.T. Booth (Offg) I.C.S.,	06th November 1928 A.D. to 21st November 1928 A.D.
Mr. H.A. Sams	22nd November 1928 A.D. to 20th March 1929 A.D.
Mr. R.G.Rogers (Offg)	21st March 1929 A.D. to 29th October 1929 A.D.
Mr. J.R.T. Booth (Offg)	30th October 1929 A.D. to 10th November 1929 A.D.
Sir Hubert Sams, Kt., C.I.E., I.C.S.,	11th November 1929 A.D. to 29th November 1931 A.D.
Sir Thomas Ryan Kt., C.I.E.,	30th November 1931 A.D. to 12th March 1934 A.D.
Mr. G.V.Bewoor C.I.E., I.C.S.,	15th March 1934 A.D. to 2nd April 1937 A.D.
Mr. R.S. Purssel (Offg)	23rd April 1937 A.D. to 15th October 1937 A.D.
Sir Gurunath Bewoor	16th October 1937 A.D. to April 1940 A.D.
Mr. A. Brokenshow (Offg)	May and June 1940 A.D.
Sir Gurunath Bewoor	July 1940 A.D. to 1944 A.D.
Mr. W.H.Shoobert C.I.E., C.D., I.C.S.,	- 1944 A.D. to 02nd October 1944 A.D.
Mr. P.G. Edmunds (Offg) C.I.E.,	03rd October 1944 A.D. to 30th November 1944 A.D.
Mr. W.H. Shoobert	1st December 1944 A.D. to 07th May 1945 A.D.
Mr. Krishna Prasada (Offg)	08th May 1945 A.D. to 04th January 1946 A.D.
Mr. W.H.Shoobert	05th January 1946 A.D. to 26th April 1946 A.D.
Mr. Krishna Prasada C.I.E., I.C.S., J.P.,	23rd April 1946 A.D. to 22nd April 1947 A.D.
Lt. Col. R.W. Spare O.B.E.,	23rd April 1947 A.D. 24th June 1947 A.D.
Mr Krishna Prasada	25th June 1947 A.D. to 08th August 1947 A.D.
Mr. N.F. Frome C.I.E., D.F.C., M.I.E.E.,	09th August 1947 A.D. to 11th September 1947 A.D.
Lt.Col. K.J. Touless	12th September 1947 A.D. to 14th October 1947 A.D.
Mr. Krishna Prasada	15th October 1947 A.D. to 17th April 1949 A.D.
Mr. N. Sherrard Smith (Offg)	18th April 1949 A.D. to 20th October 1949 A.D.
Mr. Krishna Prasada	21st October 1949 A.D. to 11th April 1951 A.D.
Mr. H.L. Jerath (Offg)	12th April 1951 A.D. to 02nd August 1951 A.D.

Mr. Krishna Prasada	03rd August 1951 A.D. to 22nd September 1952 A.D.
Mr. H.L. Jerath (Offg)	23rd September 1952 A.D. to 13th December 1952 A.D.
Mr. Krishna Prasada	14th December 1952 A.D. to 01st August 1953 A.D.
Mr. H.L. Jerath	02nd August 1953 A.D. to 20th October 1954 A.D.
Mr. M.M. Philip I.C.S.,	21st October 1954 A.D. to 22nd April 1955 A.D., 09th June 1955 A.D. to 10th August 1955 A.D., 11th November 1955 A.D. to 15th January 1956 A.D.,and 02nd March 1956 A.D. to 03rd April 1956 A.D.
Mr. B.R. Batra (Offg)	23rd April 1955 A.D. to 08th June 1955 A.D., 10th August 1955 A.D. to 10th November 1955 A.D., 16th January 1956 A.D. to 01st March 1956 A.D. 04th April 1956 A.D.to 13th June 1956 A.D. and 03rd January 1957 A.D. to 08th February 1957 A.D.
Mr.M.M. Philip	14th June 1956 A.D. to 02nd January 1957 A.D. and 09th February 1957 A.D. to 14th January 1958 A.D.
Mr. Shankar Prasad I.C.S.,	14th January 1958 A.D. to 24th August 1958 A.D.
Mr. V. Shankar I.C.S.,	14th October 1958 A.D. to 31st November 1960 A.D.
Mr. V. Nanjappa I.C.S.,	01st December 1960 A.D. to 11th November 1962 A.D.
Mr. L.C. Jain I.C.S.,	12th November 1962 A.D. to 18th November 1969 A.D.
Mr. N.C. Srivastava I.C.S.,	19th November 1969 A.D. to 22nd October 1971 A.D.
Mr. N.V. Shenoi	23rd October 1971 A.D. to 20th July 1975 A.D.
Mr. S.M. Agarwal	21st July 1975 A.D. to 20th September 1977 A.D.
Mr. J.A.Dave	21st September 1977 A.D. to 08th July 1979 A.D.
Mr. S.K. Ghose	09th July 1979 A.D. to 31st October 1984 A.D.
Mr. K. Thomas Kora	02nd November 1983 A.D. to 31st December 1984 A.D.

Director General Department of Post India

Mr. K.R. Murthy	31st January 1985 A.D. to 28th February 1987 A.D.
Mr. P.S. Raghavachari	01st March 1987 A.D. to 31st January 1989 A.D.
Mr. R.K.Saiyed	02nd February 1989 A.D. to 31 May 1990 A.D.
Mr. Kailash Prakash	31 May 1990 A.D. to 16th December 1991 A.D.
Mr. S.P. Gulathi	17th December 1991 A.D. to 30th May 1992 A.D.
Mr. L.D. Bonnell	01st June 1992 A.D. to 31st October 1992 A.D.
Mr. S.K. Parthasarathy	01st November 1992 A.D. to 31st January 1994 A.D.
Mr. T.E. Raman	1st February 1994 A.D. to 31st May 1994 A.D.
Mr. S.C.Mahalik	02nd June 1994 A.D. onwards.

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This is a select bibliography in which are listed not every source cited in the text, but only those most central to the study. The sources are listed topically rather than by facts of publication. This scheme, with its sub-categories, is as follows :

I. PRIMARY SOURCES

- A. ACTS AND REGULATIONS
  - (a) *India*
  - (b) *Great Britain*
  - (c) *Universal Postal Union*
- B. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION
- C. ANNUAL REPORTS ETC.
- D. RECORDS OF DEPARTMENT OF POSTAL BRANCH
- E. DIRECTOR GENERAL'S CIRCULARS
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II. SECONDARY SOURCES

- A. BOOKS
- B. PERIODICALS/ARTICLES
- C. THESIS
- D. GAZETTEERS

I. PRIMARY SOURCES :

A. ACTS AND REGULATIONS:

(a) ***India***

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2. *Indian Post Office Act XX* of 1838 A.D. amending the Act XVII of 1837 A.D.
3. *Indian Post Office Act XVII* of 1839 A.D. amending the Act XVII of 1837 A.D.
4. *Indian Post Office Act XVII* of 1854 A.D.
5. *Government of India Act* (Act XXI and XXII) of 1858. (Act XXI and XII Vic. Cap. C. VI of 1858).
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13. *The Indian Post Office Act* (Act VI) of 1898 A.D.
14. *The Indian Post Office Act* (1898) Amendment Act (Act III) of 1912.
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19. *The Dangerous Drugs Act* (Act II) of 1930 Amending the Post Office Act of 1898.
20. *Post Office Cash Certificate Act* (Act XVII) of 1917.
21. *Indian Wireless Telegraph Act* (Act XVII) of 1933.
22. *Government of India Act* 1935 A.D.
23. *Government Savings Bank* (Amendment) Act (Act II) of 1943.
24. *Indian Independence Act* of 1947.
25. *Act XLVIII of 1952* amending the Post Office Act of 1898.
26. *The Finance Act* (Act XIV) of 1953.

(b) ***Great Britain :***

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2. Great Britain, *Penny Postage Act, 3 & 4 Vict. C.96* of 1840.
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(c) ***Universal Postal Union :***

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